

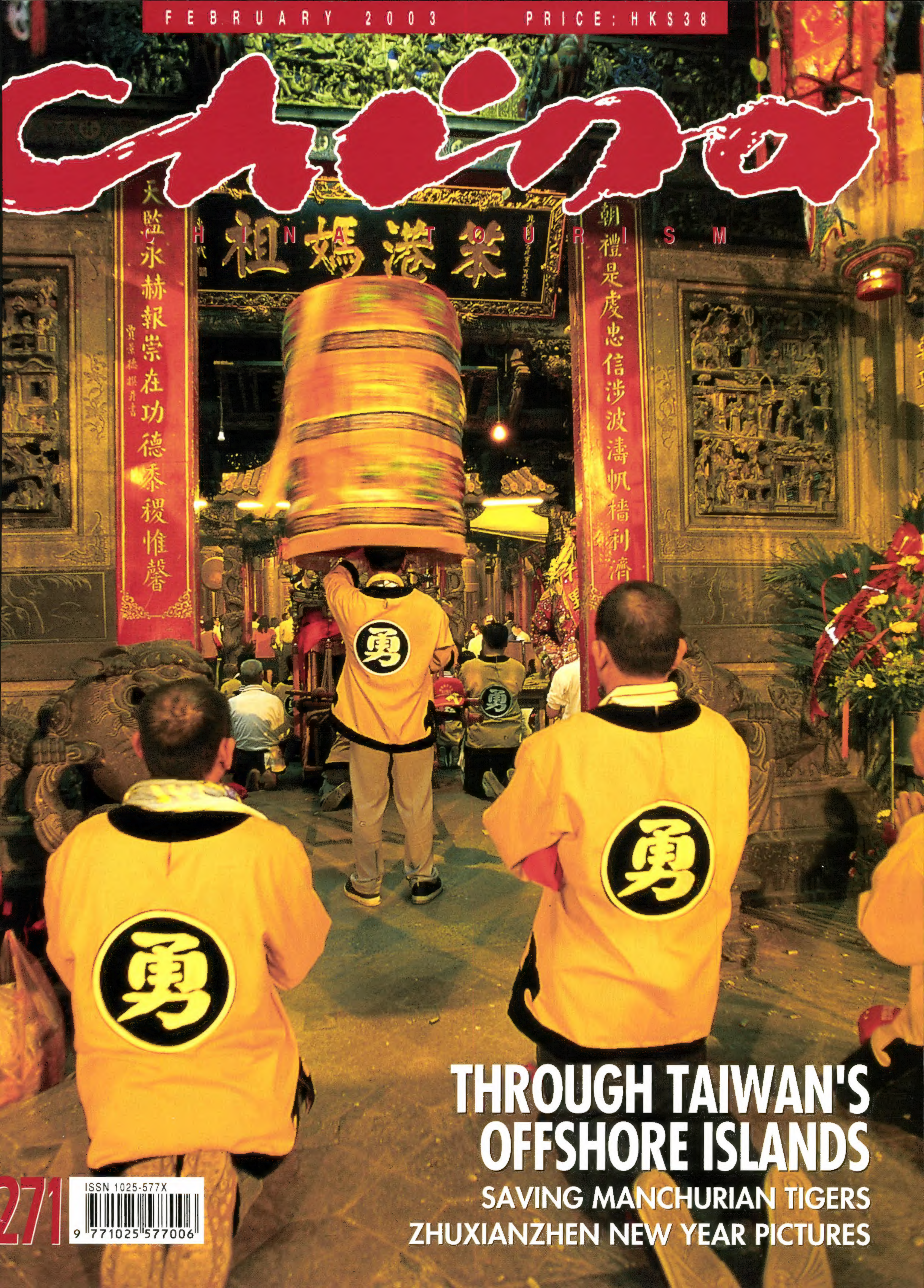
新大拿

H I N A T O U R S M

天監永赫報崇在功德黍稷惟馨

貴崇極輝

朝禮是虔忠信涉波濤帆檣利濟



**THROUGH TAIWAN'S
OFFSHORE ISLANDS**
SAVING MANCHURIAN TIGERS
ZHUXIANZHEN NEW YEAR PICTURES

271

ISSN 1025-577X

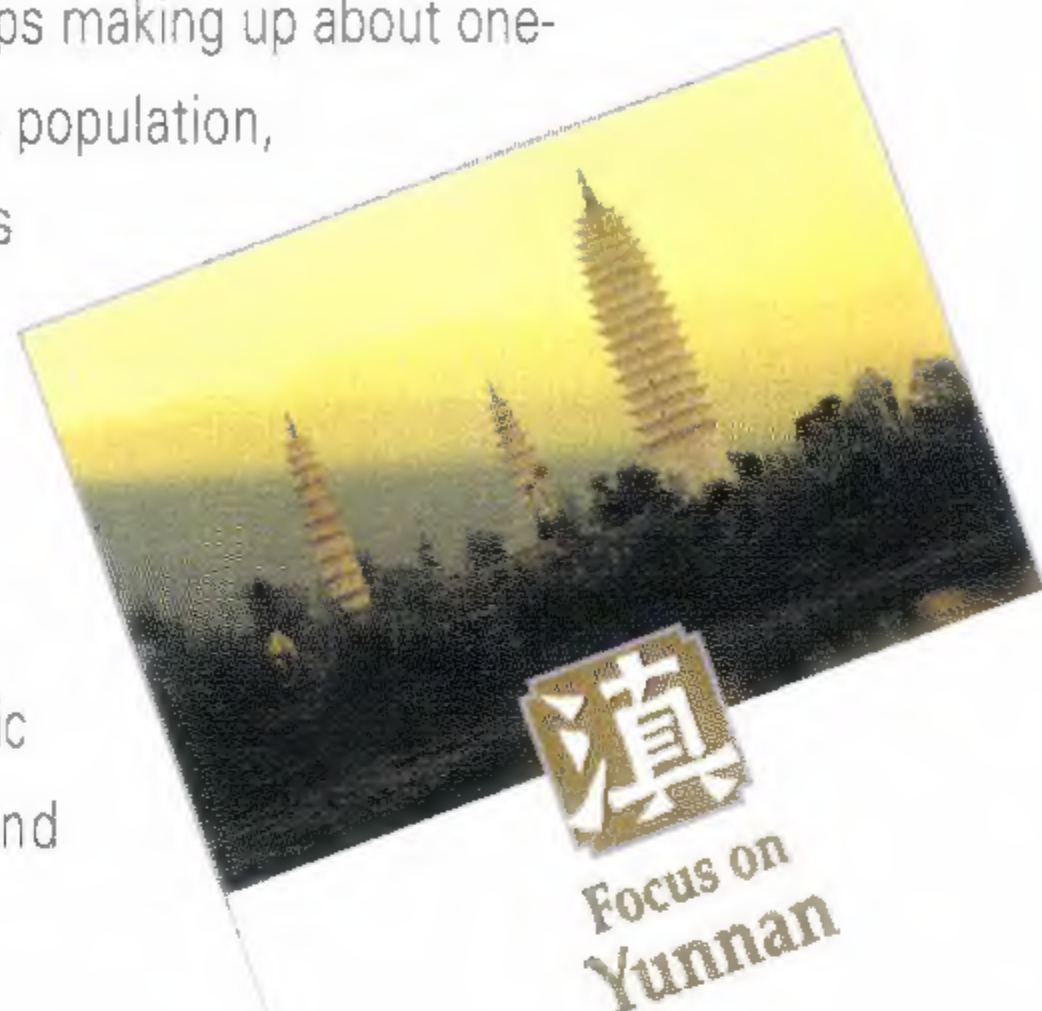


9 771025 577006

Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Yunnan

The mountainous wonderland of Yunnan enjoys a favourable warm climate year round. Its capital, Kunming, sitting alongside Yunnan's largest lake, Dianchi, has the honourable name of "Spring City". The province is full of natural wonders and cultural relics, such as the Stone Forests, the Shangri-La, and the ancient cities of Dali and Lijiang. With over 20 diverse ethnic groups making up about one-third of the population, opportunities abound for you to see their characteristic cultures and customs.



Paperback HK\$95 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Fujian

Situated on the southeast coast, Fujian Province overlooks Taiwan Island across the Taiwan Strait. Its mountainous landscape includes the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area, one of the UN World Heritage sites in China. The province's zigzag coastlines, numerous beaches and charming seas offer spectacular scenic beauty as well as historical and cultural interest in such places as the Drumming Wave Islet in Xiamen and the Mazu Temple in Meizhou Island.



Paperback HK\$95 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Shanghai

Shanghai, the largest metropolis in China, and formerly the Far East financial centre, has experienced dramatic development over the past century. The world-famous Bund along the Huangpu River shows you buildings of different historical periods and varied architectural styles, while skyscrapers are rising in the new area of Pudong. Shanghai's multiculturalism is seen in its music — operas, nostalgic jazz and discos — and in the busy commercial district of Nanjing and Huaihai roads.



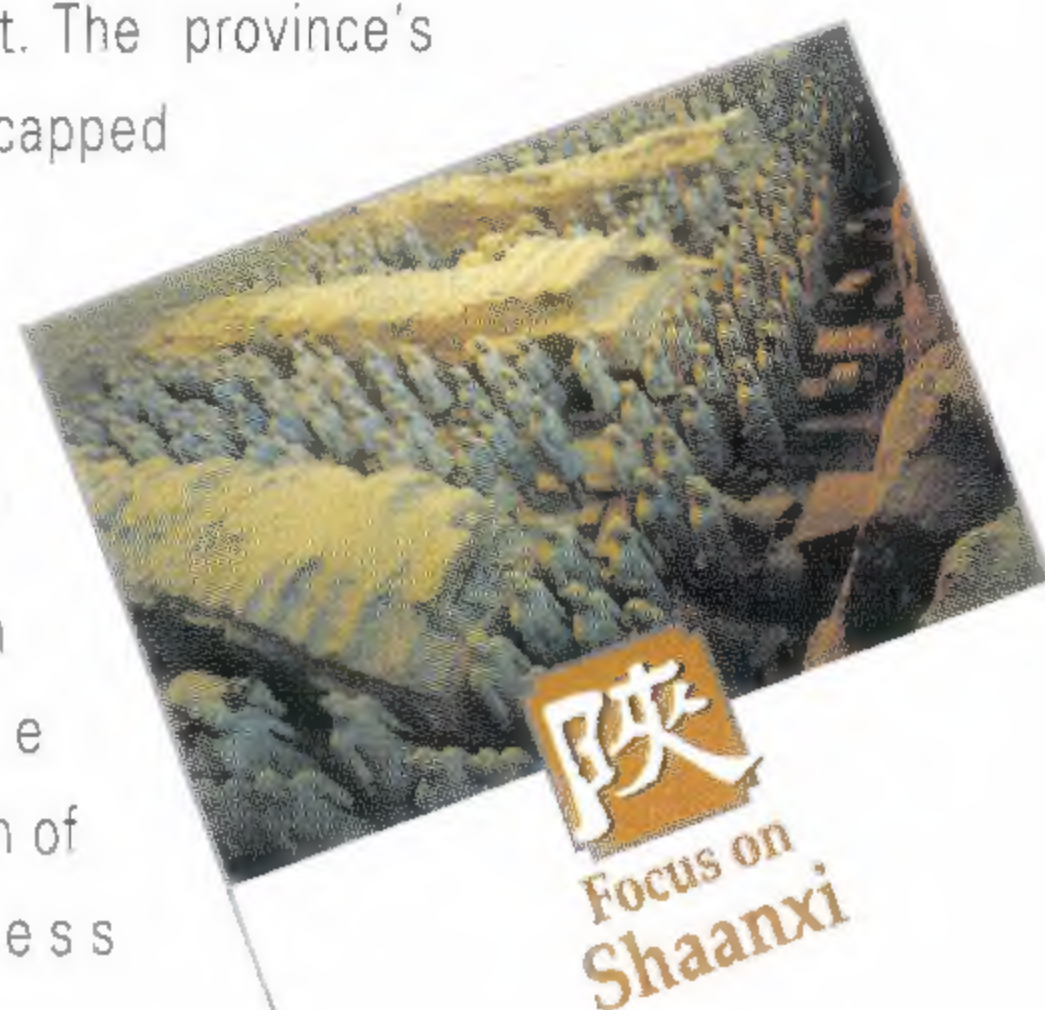
Photographic Series To Guide Your China Tours

Each book, focusing on a province or city, presents unique scenery and customs, and provides you with useful tourist information.

Paperback HK\$95 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Shaanxi

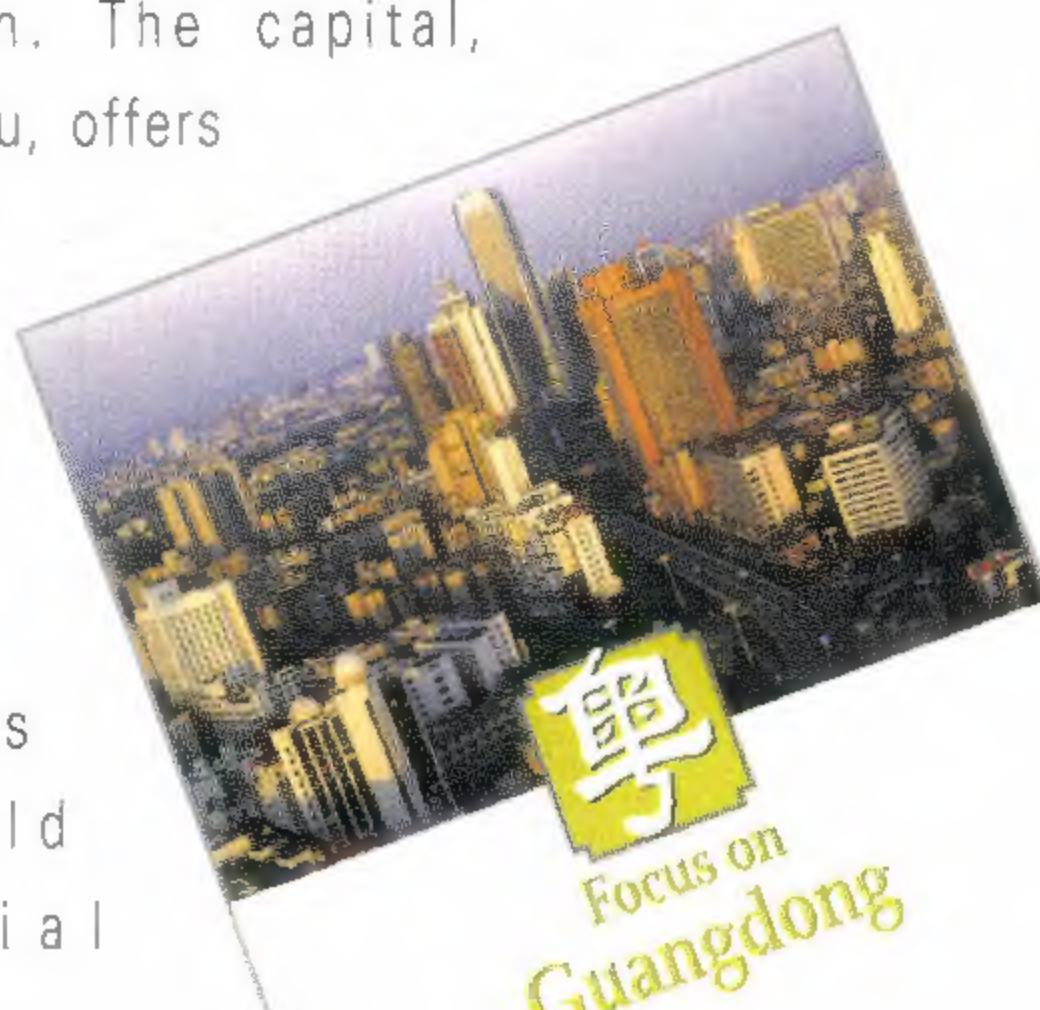
Shaanxi is the cradle of the Chinese civilisation and Xi'an was the capital of 13 dynasties. This has left Shaanxi a rich legacy of historical sites and cultural relics. In the provincial capital Xi'an, there is the fascinating terracotta army unearthed from the tomb of the First Emperor, Qin Shihuang; the tomb of Tang-dynasty Wu Zetian, China's first empress; and the stele forest. The province's beauty is capped with the sheer cliffs of Mount Huashan and the yellow earth of the Loess Plateau.



Paperback HK\$95 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Guangdong

An important gateway into China, the fertile Pearl River Delta of the southern province of Guangdong fans out from Guangzhou to the South China Sea and borders Hong Kong and Macao. The province's natural scenic spots include the limestone pinnacles of Zhaoqing's Seven Star Crag, the red sandstone of Danxia Mountain, and the volcanic beauty of Xiqiao Mountain. The capital, Guangzhou, offers plenty of history in its museums, temples, mosques and old colonial buildings.



Paperback HK\$95 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Guizhou

Guizhou is a land of splendid natural scenery. Its towering mountains and karst landforms team up with the gurgling rivers and magnificent waterfalls to form a wonderful work of Mother Nature. Huangguoshu Waterfalls and the limestone caves are the province's most frequented scenic spots. The 17 ethnic groups living in the picturesque province further colour the land with vivid customs and joyous festivals. It is its natural beauty and culture that make Guizhou a perfect travel destination.



Paperback HK\$35 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Tianjin

Tianjin, one of the four municipalities under direct Central Government administration, is an important industrial and commercial centre of China and the biggest port in the north. The history of the city can be found in its Ancient Culture Street, 100-year-old Western-style buildings, Opera Museum and Mazu Temple. Besides the TV Tower and the Haihe River in the city, there are scenic spots in the outskirts, including the Dule Temple and the Great Wall at Huangya Pass.



Paperback HK\$35 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Xinjiang

On the vast land of Xinjiang in Northwest China, there are mountains, basins, deserts and lakes, which provide tourists with numerous attractions — ruins of ancient cities and tombs along the Silk Road; Turpan, an oasis in the desert; Kanas Lake, a gem imbedded in the Altay Mountains; Bayanbulak — the Swan Lake; and the world's second largest desert, the Taklimakan. The minority ethnic groups living in Xinjiang, such as the Uygur, Kazak, Mongolian, Uzbek, Tajik, Xibe, Kirgiz and Tatar, all have their own unique colourful culture.



Paperback HK\$35 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Beijing

Beijing is a metropolis of everlasting charm. There are simply too many captivating things to see, to experience and to taste in this grand city with both old glamour and new mobility. There are historical sites such as the Palace Museum (the Forbidden City), the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, and the Ming Tombs; there are also many scenic spots in its outskirts. Recently, tours have been organised for visitors to taste the real Beijing flavour of life — touring the small back lanes, having tea in a traditional-style teahouse and enjoying the Peking Opera.



Paperback HK\$35 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Shanxi

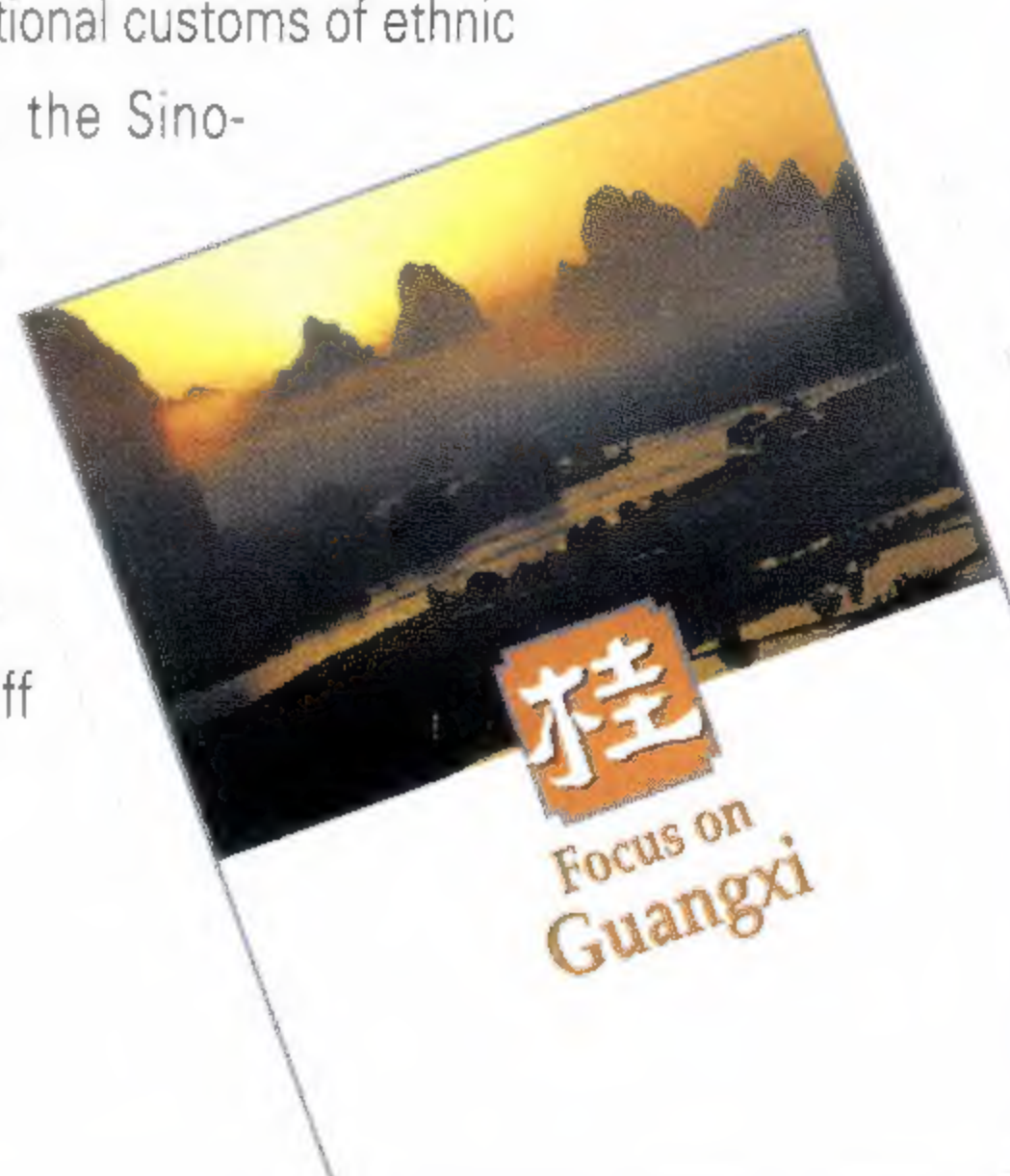
Shanxi Province, one of the birthplaces of the Chinese civilisation, has impressive ancient architecture and a wealth of well-preserved Buddhist temples, monasteries and grottoes. Among the most famous are the Yungang Grottoes containing some of China's oldest sculptures and Buddhist art, the Yongle Palace, the Jinci Temple, the Hanging Monastery built on a sheer cliff and the Wutai Mountain, one of China's most famous sacred Buddhist lands.



Paperback HK\$35 HK\$76
Hard cover HK\$150 HK\$120

Focus on Guangxi

Unusual topography has endowed the province with numerous spectacular karst formations — limestone caves, pinnacles and rocks. The most famous and enchanting scenic spot is Guilin, and the most travelled route, on the Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo. The coastal city of Beihai has the country's largest beach, the Silver Beach. Other attractions include the varied traditional customs of ethnic minorities, the Sino-Vietnamese border area, and the mysterious Huashan cliff paintings.



Now a 20% discount is offered to our readers for all these books.

Local rates (surface postage included):

Paperback - HK \$84

Hardcover - HK \$130

Overseas rates (surface postage included):

Paperback - HK \$96 / US \$12

Hardcover - HK \$160 / US \$20

Title	Paperback Qty	Hardcover Qty
☐ Focus on Yunnan		
☐ Focus on Fujian		
☐ Focus on Shanghai		
☐ Focus on Tianjin		
☐ Focus on Xinjiang		
☐ Focus on Shaanxi		
☐ Focus on Guangdong		
☐ Focus on Guizhou		
☐ Focus on Shanxi		
☐ Focus on Guangxi		
☐ Focus on Beijing		
Total:		

Paperback: _____ X \$ _____ = \$ _____

Hardcover: _____ X \$ _____ = \$ _____

* For registered mail, add HK \$13 / US \$1.7

* For US cheque or US bank draft, add HK \$56 / US \$7

Total = \$ _____

Name: _____

Subscription No.: _____

Address: _____

Daytime tel.: _____

**To pay by check, please make check payable to:
Hong Kong China Tourism Press.**

Credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Account No.: _____

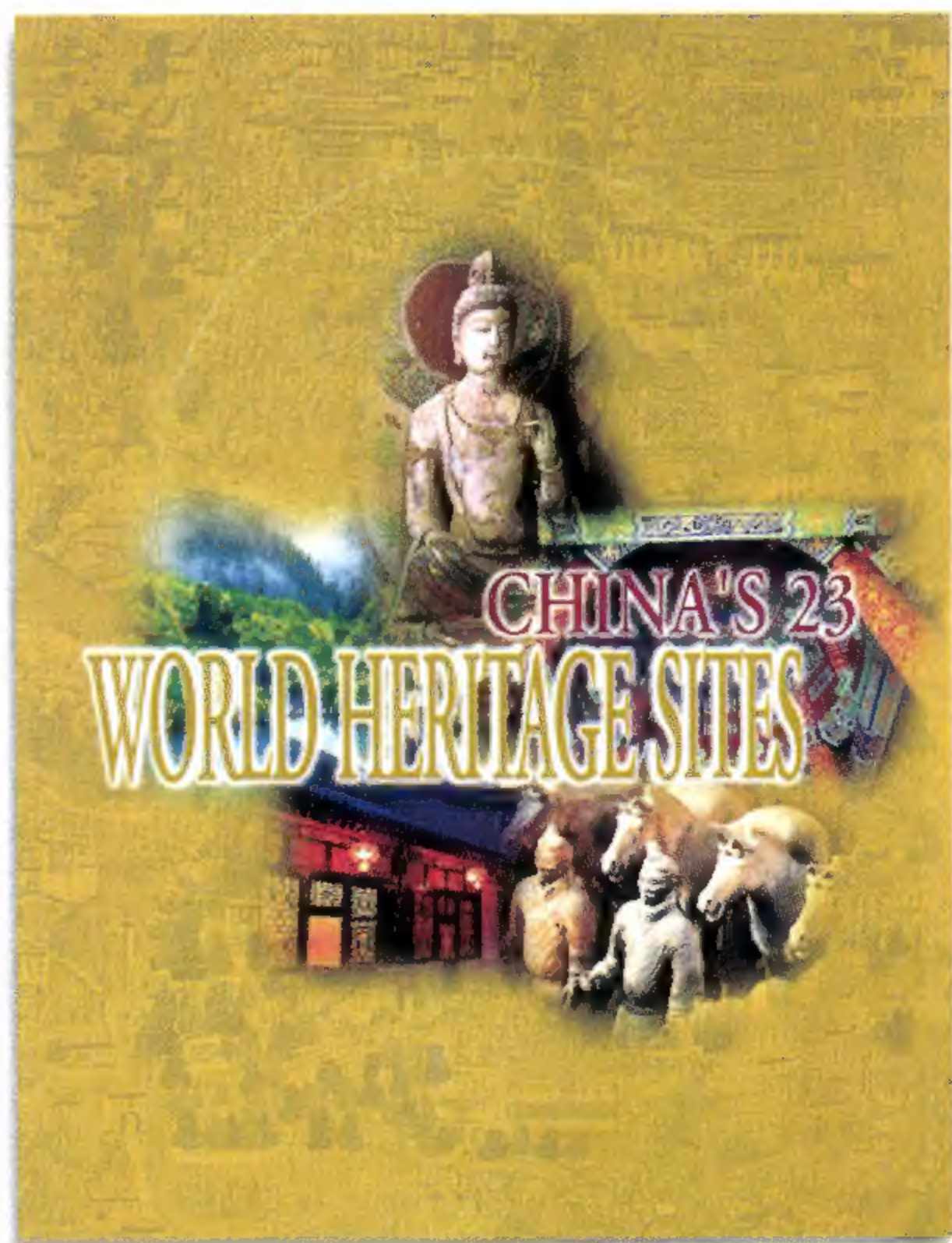
Expiry date: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail this form to:
Hong Kong China Tourism Press
24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road,
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong; or fax to (852) 2561 8196.
For more information, please call (852) 2561 8001
for the Subscription Department.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

China's 23 World Heritage Sites



Today, more than 580 cultural and natural sites have been placed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. China, one of the world's four ancient civilisations, also has its share of these heritage sites. Up to 1999, 23 sites in the country have been honourably put on the list. These include the Mountain Resort in Chengde, the Temple of Heaven, the Ruins of Zhoukoudian, the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the ancient city of Pingyao, Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum in Xi'an, Wulingyuan, Huanglong, Jiuzhaigou, Mount Emei, the ancient town of Lijiang, Potala Palace, Mount Wudang, Mount Taishan, Confucius' Temple,

Mansion and Cemetery in Qufu, Suzhou Gardens, Mount Huangshan, Mount Lushan, Mount Wuyi and Dazu Rock Carvings.

In this book, *China's 23 World Heritage Sites*, you can delight in the beauty of each one of these sites. Incredibly gorgeous pictures together with a practical travel guide add to the book's comprehensive nature and make it a great gift for you and your friends.

Original Book Price: HK\$180

Now Less 20% discount: **HK\$144 / US\$18.50**

	Hong Kong	P.R.C., Taiwan and Macao	Overseas (Asia except Japan)	Overseas (Japan and non-Asian areas)
Book Price	HK\$144 / US\$18.50			
Postage per book (surface plus registered mail)	HK\$24	HK\$33 / US\$4.50	HK\$45 / US\$6	HK\$47 / US\$6
Total	HK\$168	HK\$177 / US\$23.00	HK\$189 / US\$24.50	HK\$191 / US\$24.50

Name of Subscriber: Mr/Ms/Mrs _____

Address: _____

_____ Daytime Tel: _____

Payment Method:

To pay by cheque, please make cheque payable to "HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS".

By credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Name of cardholder: Mr/Ms/Mrs _____

Card No.: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail this form to "Hong Kong China Tourism Press"

24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196

For more information, please call our subscription department at (852) 2561 8001.

China's 23 World Heritage Sites

CONTENTS

No. 271 February 2003



Cover: Pilgrims praying for Matsu in a temple
(by Chan Yat Nin)



From the Editor

- 7 Back to Isles for Dreaming

8 Update

10 Travel Notes

Impressions

- 12 An Abandoned Man

Article by Huang Songhui

Book Review

- 13 Knowing Guangzhou, Knowing the History of China

Photos & reviewed by Gloria Shang

Feature Story

- 14 Through Taiwan's Offshore Islands — Kinmen, Penghu, Matsu

Photos by Ma Zhixin, Zhang Yongjie, Gao Zhiqiang, Zhuang Xijin, Xu Yongmian, Chu Kit Article by Chu Kit

Besides betel nut and Jimmy's illustrations, Taiwan owns more which can make you in love of the place. For instance, our correspondent travels through the offshore islands of Taiwan, including Kinmen, Penghu, and Matsu, and has experienced

the beautiful scenery, human warmth from the simple and honest locals, and distinctive local customs. The strong passion for Matsu, or the Goddess of the Sea, is especially revealed at the annual grand temple fair at Beigang. With their special historical background, Taiwan's offshore islands present you a diversity of customs, lifestyles, food, clothing, architecture and languages from different provinces in Mainland China.

Nature

- 48 The Survival of Manchurian Tigers

Photos by Wang Fuchun Article by Wang Fuchun, Shi Dong

Due to excessive deforestation, the Manchurian tiger, which previously roamed the forests of North China, once was pushed to the threat of extinction. Over recent years with efforts paid by the experts, reports of the appearance of the animal in the wild have finally been heard. Is this an auspicious sign showing the comeback of Manchurian tigers?

Photography

- 54 The Romance and Reality of Rall

Photos by Wang Fuchun Article by Li Wu

English Edition

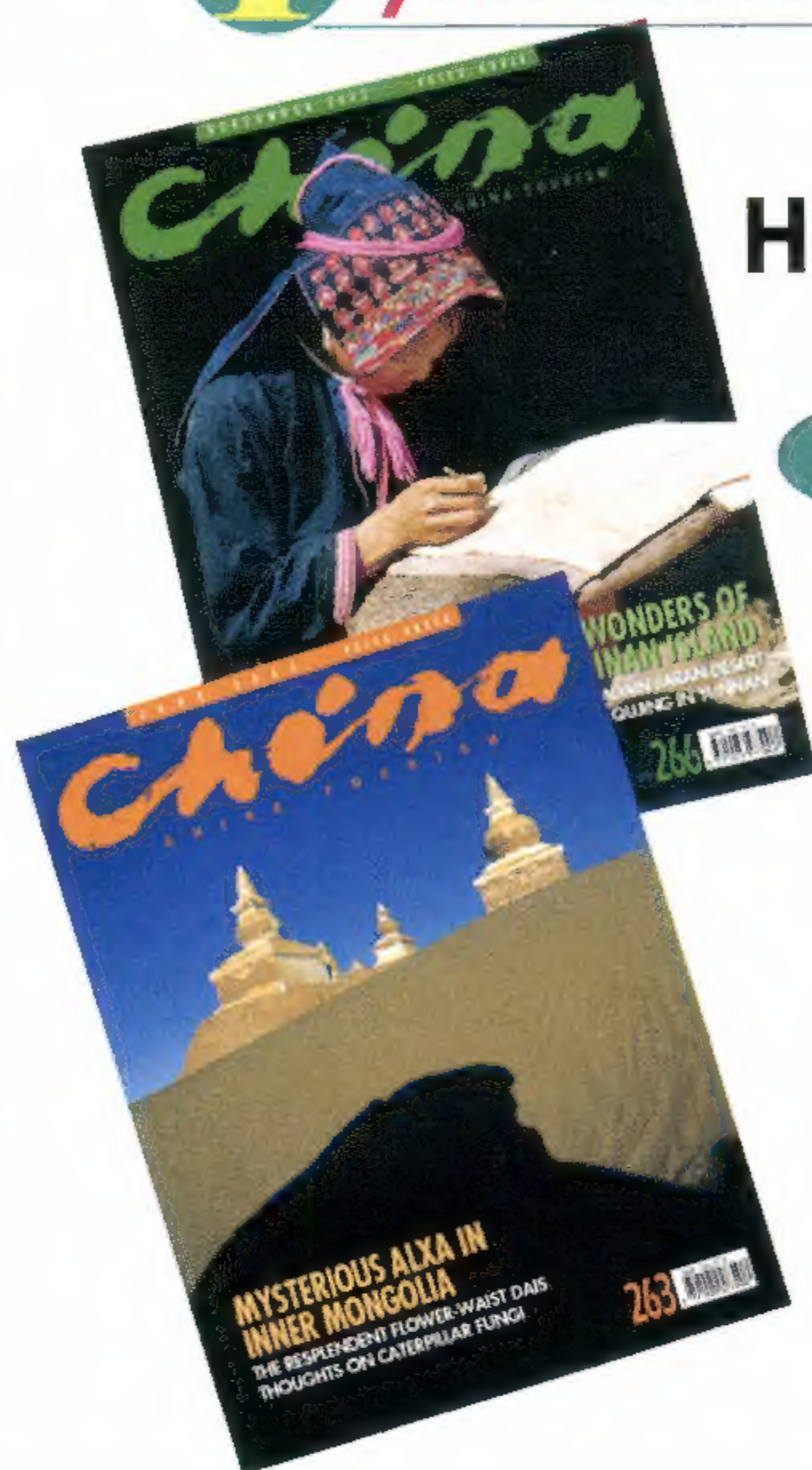
CHINA TOURISM

SAVE OFF THE NEWSSTAND PRICE

1 year subscription (12 issues)

HK \$ **359** / US \$ **46**

Gift: Focus on Guangxi



2 years subscription (24 issues)

HK \$ **660** / US \$ **85**

Gift: China's 23 World Heritage Sites



Overseas Subscription Rates

Region	Surface Mail		Air Mail	
	1 year	2 years	1 year	2 years
PRC, Macao and Taiwan	HK\$451/US\$58	HK\$850/US\$109	HK\$690/US\$89	HK\$1328/US\$171
Asian countries (except Japan)	US\$69	US\$130	US\$89	US\$171
Japan and non-Asian countries	US\$70	US\$133	US\$102	US\$197

☐ Additional charge for Registered Mail HK\$156/US\$20 per year.

☐ Additional charge for US cheque US \$7

I would like to subscribe to CHINA TOURISM starting from _____/20____ for _____
(Month)

☐ 1 year, please send me *Focus on Guangxi*

☐ 2 years, please send me *China's 23 World Heritage Sites*

Subscriber's Information

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____ Tel: _____

Fax/E-mail: _____ Country: _____

Address: _____

Method of Payment

Total payment: HK\$ _____/US\$ _____

☐ Cheque enclosed made payable to "HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS"

☐ Please debit my credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

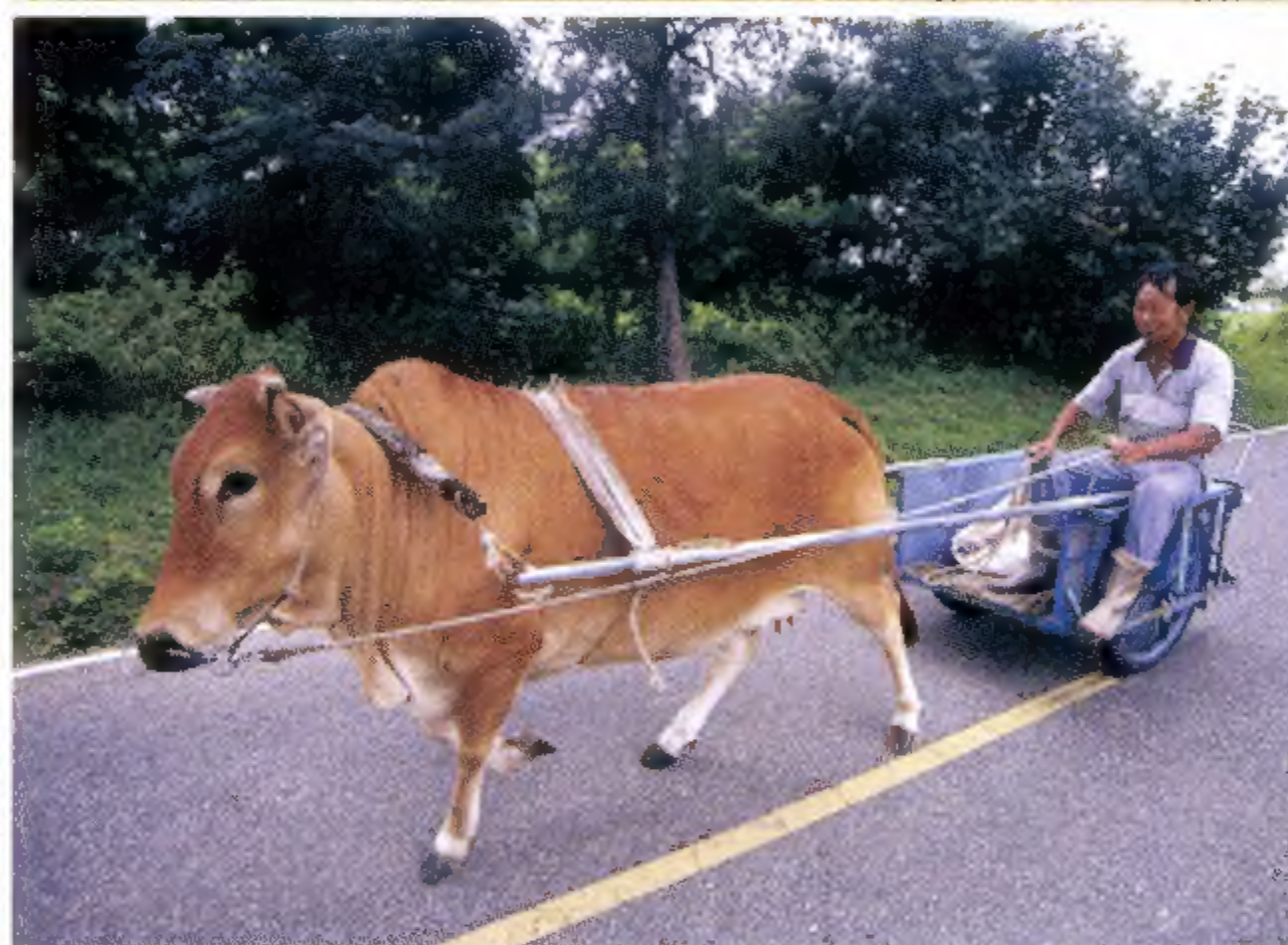
Card no.: _____ Expiry date: _____

Signature: _____

Please return to : HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS (Circulation Department), 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8196

CONTENTS

No. 271 February 2003



Culture

- 60 Time-Honoured New Year Woodcut Art from Zhuxianzhen

Photos & article by Wang Lili

Woodcut New Year pictures from Zhuxianzhen is a microcosm of the ups and downs of history. In its prime time, there were 300 workshops producing New Year woodcuts in the Qing Emperor Qianlong's reign. However, facing increasingly tough competition on the market, existing New Year woodcut workshops in Zhuxianzhen have to keep their pace along the wheel of time to preserve this tradition for next generation.

HK Mosaic

- 66 A Photographic Tour of Sai Kung East

Photos & article by Keith Li, Mo Guohua

Discoveries

- 70 Old Wells in Jianshui

Photos by Huang Yanhong, Xu Jinyan

Article by Huang Yanhong, Mo Hongxin

Though not being included in the list of tourist sites, the old wells in Jianshui in central Yunnan has captivated the writer who has just had occasional glimpses on them. Through a visit to more than 30

ancient wells in Jianshui, he has learnt not only the legends behind the wells, but also the importance of the wells to the locals' daily lives.

On the Way

- 76 Bamei Village: A Haven Behind Limestone Caves

Photos & article by Li Zhixiong

The Bamei Village isolated in the hills behind limestone caves in Yunnan, bordering Guangxi and Guizhou, is by no means an easy for either a tourist or local to reach. One will have to take a bamboo raft, canoe or small boat through two natural limestone caves so as to enter or leave the village. Yet, it is still worthy to spend a few days experiencing the peaceful life in this haven on earth.

Traveller's Corner

- 80 My Image of Beijing

Photos & article by Tony Henderson

- 82 Experiences

- 84 Index

- 86 Executive's Memo

- 88 Next Issue

Consultants (In alphabetical order)

Director

Vice Director & Editor-in-Chief

General Manager

Deputy General Managers

Executive Editor-in-Chief

Deputy Editors-in-Chief

Director of Editorial Department

Deputy Directors of Editorial Department

Editors of English Editorial Department

Director of Art Department

Designers

Assistant Designer

Advertising Manager

China Account Managers

Manager of Sales & Marketing Department

Business Development Manager

Director of Accounts & Administration Dept.

T. K. Ann, Ian Fok Chun Wan, Lam Chun,

Ma Chi Man, Ma Lin, Wong Tak Hoi,

James T. Wu, Howard Young

Tchan Fou-li

Wang Miao

Liu Yang

Kathy Wong, James Jiang, Connie Lee

Ma Yiu Chun

Tu Nai Hsien, Chan Yat Nin

Dianna Lau

Xie Guanghui, Huang Yanhong

Zuo Jun, Kristy Wong

Norris Tong

Y. Y. Lau, W. Y. Yuen, M. Y. Li, S. Y. Leung

Lily Lam

Kent Lai

Yu Xifan, Tung Wai Ning

Connie Lee (concurrent)

James Jiang (concurrent)

Kathy Wong (concurrent)

Publisher: HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS

24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8057/ 2561 8196

Editorial Dept., Business Dept., Advertising Dept., Sales Dept. Tel: (852) 2561 8001

China Tourism Photo Library Tel: (852) 2561 8001

E-mails: English Editorial Dept: edit-e@hkctp.com.hk

Advertising Dept: ad@hkctp.com.hk

Sales & Marketing Dept: mktg@hkctp.com.hk

Photo Library: plchinat@netvigator.com

Hong Kong China Tourism Ltd. (Licence No. 351850) Tel: (852) 2516 9228

Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.

C & C Building, 36 Ting Lai Road, Tai Po, N.T. Tel: (852) 2666 4988

Agencies: Australia Gordon and Gotch Ltd., •

Belgium Sun Wah Supermarket • **Brazil** Comercio

Impotdora Konmin Ltd. • **Canada** Sun Wa Bookstore,

Toronto; Van China Trade Centre Ltd., Vancouver •

China National Publications Import & Export Corp.,

Beijing • **England** Guanghua Company Ltd., London

• **France** Europasie S.A.R.L., Paris • **Holland** Ming

Ya, Amsterdam • **Hong Kong** Foreign Press

Distributors Ltd. • **Japan** Koyosha Co. Ltd., Tokyo •

Macau Starlight Bookstore Ltd.; The World Book

Company; Plaza Cultural Macau Ltd. • **Malaysia**

Pustaka Lively, Tawau, Sabah • **Singapore**

Marketasia Distributors (S) Pte. Ltd. (65) 6744 8483 •

Thailand Chew Hong Service Ltd., Bangkok • **The**

Philippines Good Quality Merchandising, Manila •

U.S.A. China Periodical Distribution, Los Angeles;

Oriental Culture Enterprise Co., New York; China Daily

Distribution Corp., New York

China Advertising License: ICAD006

News-stand price: HK\$38

Printed in Hong Kong

Copyright reserved



FROM THE EDITOR

Back to Isles for Dreaming

For this month's main feature we leave Tibet's icy mountains and head south to Taiwan and its outlying islands.

The vicissitudes of a tempestuous history have shaped Taiwan. Just as it is often the first landfall for the typhoons sweeping out of the eastern Pacific, so it was often the first port of call for outsiders whether from east or west. The 20th century especially saw Japanese occupation for the first half-century followed by China's civil war.

For many older people worldwide Taiwan's outlying islands were just names on maps, or names that cropped up regularly in newsreels or newspaper reports of artillery duels between the islands and the mainland. For many years these islands were in the front line and were totally off limits to tourists.

With agonising slowness political relations have since thawed, these once forbidden shores are no longer in a war zone and gradually people from abroad and Mainland China can satisfy their curiosity about them. For this let us all be grateful. After all islands like these should be places that people dream about, peaceful and serene, not combat arenas.

At this magazine we like to think travel expands horizons, helps people of different cultures and sensibilities understand each other, and hopefully heightens our awareness of the essential common humanity we all share.

Enjoy your travelling and let's drink a toast to broadened horizons and peace between peoples everywhere.

On a totally different tack we would like draw our readers' attention to the story in this issue about the Manchurian tiger. The stunning images of the tigers accompanying the story reflect great credit on the photographers while the dedicated personnel, experts and workers alike, who have brought the tiger back from the verge of extinction are also deserving of our unstinted praise and gratitude.

To these people too let us propose a toast.

Photo by Ma Zhixin

Qichun Garden of the Yuanmingyuan ruins by the Beijing Ancient Architecture Restoration Company. Restoration of the temple would be carried out in two phases, and the entire task would be completed by late September next year.

Afterwards, restoration of 40 other separate relics inside Yuanmingyuan would then begin. But it is impossible to fully restore Yuanmingyuan to its original splendor as only 10 percent of the architecture above the ground could be restored or rebuilt. The total area of work is estimated at 17,000 square metres.

Located in northwest Beijing, the erection of Yuanmingyuan started from 1709 to 1744. It was burnt down by the British and French troops in 1860 and sacked and totally burnt down again, after partly restored, in 1900 when the Eight-Power Allied Forces occupied Beijing. Zhengjue Temple, built in 1773, had survived both attacks.

China & Japan Launch Afforestation Program

China and Japan have launched a joint afforestation program with the goal of planting forests over 10,000 to 20,000 hectares in 10 years along the Yellow River.

The Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China (CYLC) and the Japan-China Parliamentary League for Tree-planting will implement the program in 2003~2012.

The Japanese league will fund the tree-planting in the Yellow River valley areas in Shaanxi, Shanxi and Henan provinces, which are most often attacked by soil erosion due to lack of vegetation.

The afforestation work will be conducted under the framework of a national green project initiated by the CYLC Central Committee, which mobilizes millions of young Chinese to plant trees and help improve the environment in major river areas such as the Yangtze and the Yellow Rivers.

The program would not only benefit Sino-Japanese cooperation on environmental protection, but would also promote friendly relations among the two countries' young people.

Temple Fairs Arranged for Foreign Visitors

Two large temple fairs will be staged during the Lunar New Year holidays starting on February 1 in Xuanwu District of Beijing. The events will be arranged respectively at Changdian and Daguan Yuan in southern Beijing, focusing on traditional Chinese folk arts and handicrafts.

The temple fair is a traditional cultural event featuring all kinds of Chinese folk art. The fair is usually held around the Spring Festival (Lunar New Year) and attracts thousands of visitors from home and abroad. So far, there have been more than 10 major temple fairs held each year in different parts of Beijing.

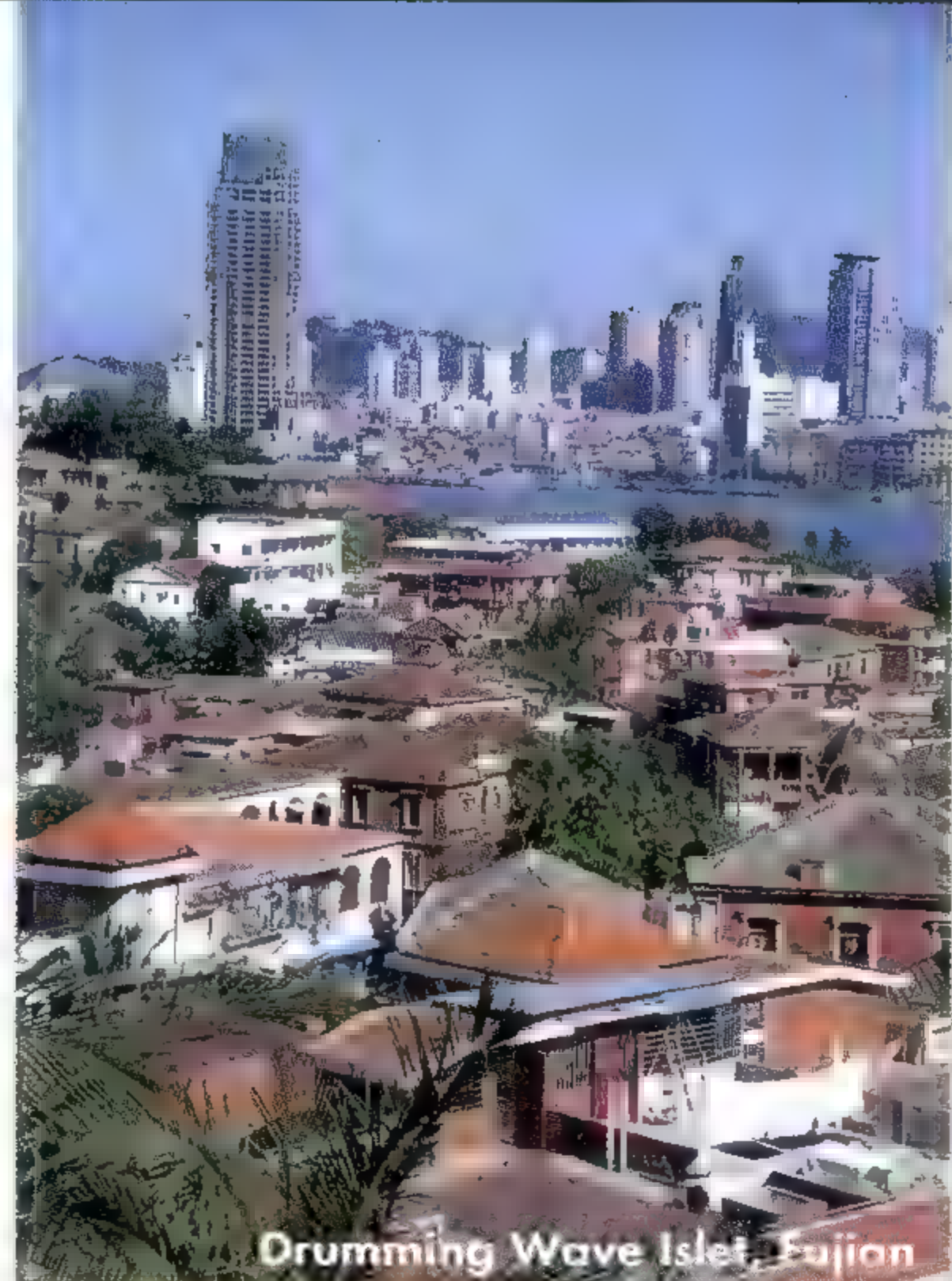
Tourism Theme 2003: "Culinary Kingdom — China"

According to information from the China National Tourism Administration, this year's tourism promotion theme is defined as "Culinary Kingdom — China 2003."

China is an ancient country with a long-standing history and beautiful natural scenery including magnificent mountains and rivers. With its thousands of years of civilisation and wide variety of ethnic groups and customs, it is rich in tourism resources as well as cuisine culture. Chinese culinary culture forms an integral part of the social system dating back to as early as the Xia Dynasty (2205—1766 B.C.), Shang Dynasty (1766—1122 B.C.) and Zhou Dynasty (1122—221 B.C.). After several thousands years' development and improvement, Chinese cuisine has become a special part of the world's food civilisation.

Besides, eating is one of China's rich tourism resources. The culinary theme is destined to let tourists at home and abroad get a better understanding of Chinese food customs as they travel.





Eco-friendly Regions to Be Set Up

By the year of 2005, 120 "model ecological regions" will be set up by the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) in China to balance economic growth and ecological conservation amid the country's rapid industrialisation.

The model regions will be chosen from four or five Chinese provinces, as well as 300 to 400 middle-sized cities and counties, which are carrying out their specific plans to develop an eco-friendly economy. This concept is expected to eventually spread to all 31 Chinese provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

According to SEPA, an eco-friendly region should rationally tap its natural resources and constantly improve its environment to ensure its social and economic development is sustainable.

Four provinces — Hainan and Fujian in the south, and Jilin and Heilongjiang in the northeast — have drawn up plans to turn themselves into "ecological provinces."

Fujian, for example, announced last August it would invest 71.6 billion yuan in 10-year projects to build as an "ecological province." It will consider the ecological impact when making economic decisions, and will encourage the development of eco-friendly farming and industry, and eco-tourism.

Abandoned Factory Rebuilt as Art Museum

A disused 6,000-sq-mt cement factory is being rebuilt as China's first art museum specialising in artworks relevant to environmental protection in South China's Guangdong Province.

Artworks to be displayed at the museum included paintings, sculptures, videos, Chinese calligraphy and performance art.

The organiser believes that artworks express the unique understanding of artists about environment problems, and are more effective than slogans to help improve public awareness of protecting the environment.

The factory had been a headache for the local government at Heyuan City in Guangdong until a designer suggested it be rebuilt as an art museum.

New China-Japan Air Route to Be Launched

The National Civil Aviation Administration has authorized Yantai, a coastal city in Northeast China's Shandong Province, to be the 18th city with a direct passenger air route to Japan from April 9, 2003.

China Eastern Airlines will fly from Yantai to the Japanese city of Osaka each Thursday and Sunday, the shortest route between any Chinese city and Osaka.

The Yantai Airport at present operates 35 routes, including four international ones.

the gateway to Chinese hospitality



CENTRAL HOTEL

SHANGHAI

王寶和大酒店

555 Jiujiang Road, Shanghai 200001, P.R. China Tel: (86 21) 5396 5000 Fax: (86 21) 5396 5188
www.centralhotelshanghai.com Email: chbc@centralhotelshanghai.com

News Website Launched in Zhejiang

Investment Funded by the Zhejiang Daily Newspapers Group, Zhejiang Radio and Television Group, and a provincial media centre for overseas services, a news website "zjon.com.cn" with versions in both simplified and complex Chinese and English has been launched in late 2002.

The investors say they will develop it into the province's largest gateway website. The website will encompass news from Zhejiang Daily and provincial radio and television stations, as well as news from national media in words, pictures, audio and video forms.

Valuable Cultural Relics Unearthed in Central China

Discovery Nearly 500 valuable cultural relics were unearthed in late 2002 from a tomb dating back to the Warring States Period (475 — 221B.C.) in Zaoyang City of Hubei Province. Archaeologists say the newly-unearthed bronze ritual vessels are in sound condition, which is unusual for findings from that period.

Ritual vessels such as chimes, tripods, cauldrons and carriages which were buried with the dead in the Chu State, which was located in the province more than 2,000 years ago, were among the items found in the Jiuliandun Tomb.

A rectangular bronze jar with dragon designs, which was used exclusively by aristocrats, was excavated. Similar jars have been found in other parts of China, but with different shapes and patterns.

A cauldron measuring 93 cm in height and 82 cm in diameter was also found. It is the largest cauldron excavated from the Chu tombs to date.

Another exciting finding is a bronze lamp which features a man holding the lamp in one hand and a bird in the other. The depiction of a man and an animal together on a lamp is a rare occurrence in the Chu tombs, according to archaeologists.



17 State Nature Reserves Added

Investment A total of 17 places have been inscribed as State Protected Nature Reserves by the State Council recently, which are listed as follows: the Nihe Bay Reserve in Weixian, Yangyuan County, and Lesser Mt. Wutai Reserve in Zhuolu County, Weixian in Hebei Province; Mt. Tianfozhi in Longjing City, Jilin Province; Raoli River Reserve in Heilongjiang River; Mt. Dapan Reserve in Pan'an County in Zhejiang Province; Mt. Wuyi Reserve in Qianshan County, Jiangxi Province; Huihe River Reserve in Hulun Buir League, and Tumuji Reserve in Xing'an League in Inner Mongolia; Mt. Xiangtuo Reserve in Boluo County, Guangdong Province; Jianfeng Ridge Reserve in Dongfang City, Hainan Province; Taoyuan Cave Reserve in Yanling County, Hunan Province; Wanglang Reserve in Pingwu County, and Baishui River Reserve in Pengzhou City in Sichuan Province; Ciba Valley Reserve in Cayu County, Tibet Autonomous Region; Lianggu City Reserve in Minqin County, Gansu Province; Mt. Luoshan Reserve in Tongxin County, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region; and the Mt. Daming Reserve which covers Wuming, Mashan, Shanglin, and Binyang counties in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.



Hanging Coffin Group Found in Ningwu

Discovery A group of hanging coffins, located deep in the mountains in Xiaoshimen (Small Rock Gate) Village in Ningwu County, Shanxi Province, has been discovered by Chinese archaeologists lately. This is the earliest coffin group hanged on mountain slope found in the area north of the Yangtse River. Other kinds of hanging coffins include hanging along a mountain trail, cave, cliff, rock gap, or hanging with iron chains. Still, the background of hanging coffins such as who are inside, the reason of using this method and when they exactly existed are unknown. Experts initially suppose three kinds of people were buried in these coffins: monks, sacrificed soldiers and local landlords. Hanging coffins reveal the outstanding social status of the dead people, and this method was most popularly adapted in the Tang (618 — 907) and Ming (1368 — 1644) dynasties.

The site where the new group of hanging coffins were found has already been opened for the public. Standing on a hanging plank road built opposite the coffin groups, tourists can completely experience the striking momentum of the canyon. Travellers can also visit famous scenic spots in suburban areas in Ningwu, such as the Great Wall built in the Ming Dynasty, Ten-thousand-Buddha Temple, Mt. Luya, etc.

Transport: Ningwu is 180 km away from Taiyuan, capital city of Shanxi Province. Tourists can take a train: Shijiazhuang → Taiyuan → Ningwu / Beijing → Datong → Ningwu; or bus through the expressway: Shijiazhuang → Taiyuan → Ningwu / Datong → Ningwu. There are scheduled bus and taxis running between Ningwu and other scenic spots.

Admission: RMB 10~15 **Enquiry no.:** 350-4723 270

(Information by Lu Yuncheng)

Liulichang Street Under Refurbishment

Beijing A sum of 1.6 billion yuan will be spent over the next two years to widen, straighten and further improve the 780-year-old Liulichang Street in Beijing into a unique special cultural center with a total floor area of 80.7 hectares.

Located just outside the Hepingmen (Gate of Peace) in southern Xuanwu District, the street was originally built during the Yuan Dynasty (1271 — 1368) and later became a bustling book bazaar during the Qing Dynasty (1644 — 1911). It is now a famous cultural shopping centre, featuring a wealth of antiques, paintings, calligraphy scrolls by prestigious artists and eminent scholars, as well as pottery, rubbings of inscriptions, calligraphy brushes, inksticks, inkslabs, top-quality traditional China-made paper, handicrafts and fine arts.

Structures reflecting the architectural style of late-Qing and early Republic of China (1912 — 1949) period will also be rebuilt along the street so as to serve as cultural and entertainment facilities.

Mijishan Grottoes, the Carving Museum of the Orient

Gansu Known as the east gate of Gansu, Tianshui was a significant post on the eastern section of the Silk Road. It can be reached within seven hours from Xi'an by train. The Maijishan Grottoes, located about 50 km southeast of the city amidst clusters of peaks and hills, are world-famous for the 7,800 stone sculptures and clay figures as well as over 1,000 square metres of murals from the fourth to 19th centuries preserved in 194 caves. Major spots of Mijishan Grottoes include:

No. 123 Grotto: Though a Buddhist grotto, Mijishan also contains statues which reflect the usual life of common people. From the carvings in this cave, tourists can appreciate the daily lives of the ethnic groups living in areas between Shaanxi and Gansu provinces.

Seven Buddha Court: Also known as Sanhua Tower, it is the grandest cave among the Mijishan grottoes, and is a rare site for carrying research on ancient Chinese architecture.

No. 142 Grotto: It owns the richest content among all grottoes of Mijishan, where lots of exquisitely carved statues of Buddhas and Bodhisattva as well as their followers can be seen.



Mt. Wuyi, Largest Heritage Site in China

Fujian The Mt. Wuyi was listed as a strategic state scenic spot in November 1982, and has been inscribed as a World Cultural & Natural Heritage Site by the UNESCO in December 1999. Lying in the northwestern part of Fujian Province, it encompasses an area of 60 sq km, which is surrounded by streams and valleys.

Jiuqu Stream (Nine Turns Stream): Now and again its torrents churn over shoals, throwing sheets of spray into the air, and then merge into clear deep pools which are as smooth as a mirror. At its two banks, myriad peaks soar up, vying with one another for beauty and wild azalea flowers glow crimson.

Tianyou Peak (Peak of Sky Tour): Frequently shrouded in clouds and mist, it towers aloft over clusters of peaks. Ascending to its top, one feels as if travelling upon a sea of clouds high up the sky. Hence it becomes the most famous spot of Mt. Wuyi. Standing on its top, tourists can browse the panoramic view of Mt. Wuyi encircled by peaks and the Jiuqu Stream on its three sides.

Other must-see spots within the Wuyishan Scenic Area include the Water Screen Cave, Chongyou Wanniangong Taoist religious service centre, etc.

Admissions: United ticket of the scenic area~111 yuan; rafting on Jiuqu Stream~100 yuan; ruins of Han city in Chengcun~30 yuan

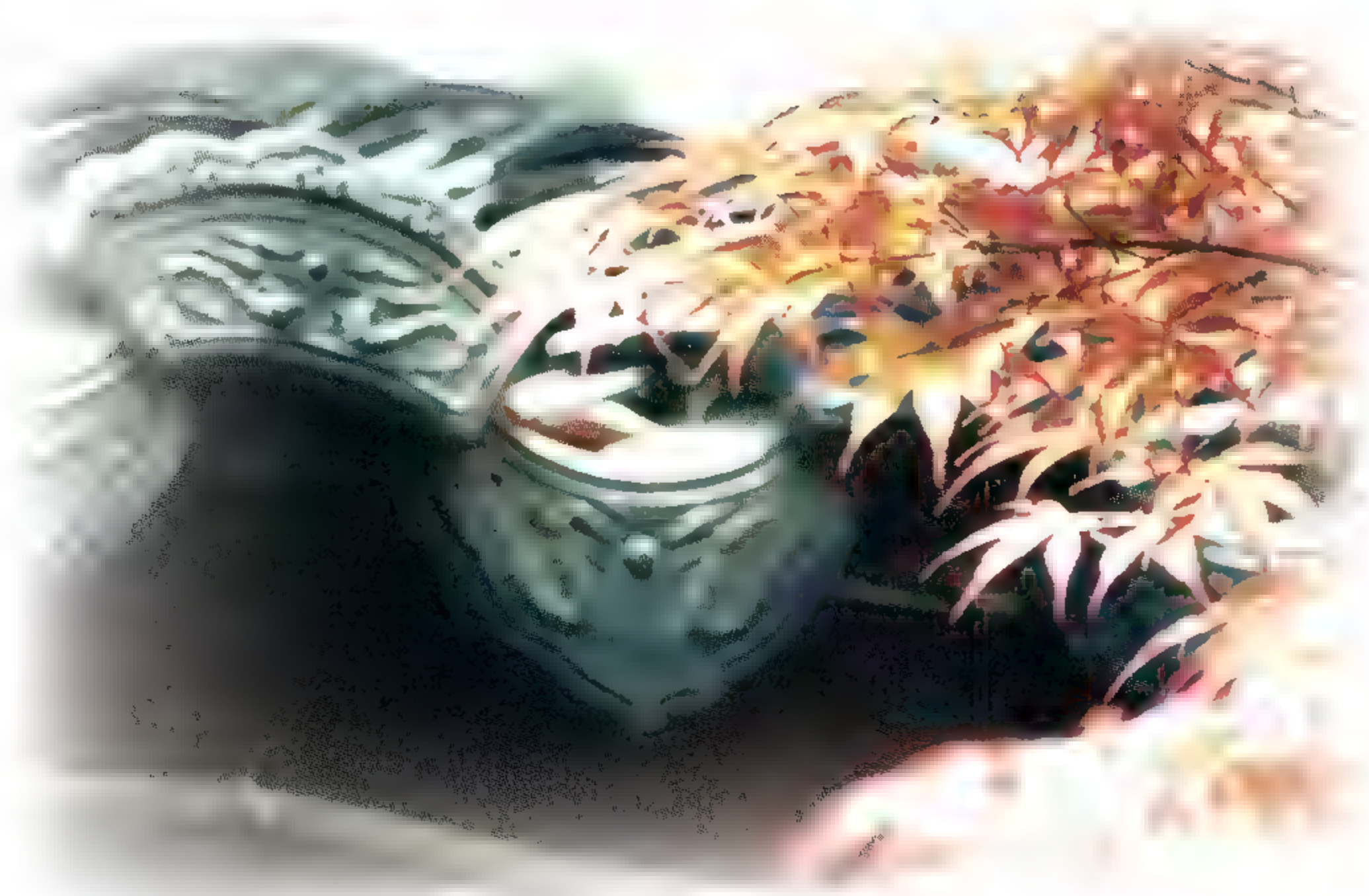
German-taste Tourist Town Built

Shanghai A 4.9-square-kilometre German-style town with a capacity of 80,000 residents is being built in suburban Anting, home to the Shanghai Volkswagen Corporation. The first phase of the project covers 2.5 square kilometres, and the entire town is expected to be erected in three years.

The town is designed by seven German architectural firms headed by renowned German architect Albert Speer. Seventy percent of the area will be covered by trees and grass, as well as kindergartens, primary schools, high schools, and banks.

The Shanghai government has actively urbanized its suburb areas these years, in which a British-style and a Chinese-style town were also being built in Songjiang, south of Anting, and Qingpu, to the southwest respectively. It plans to build an additional 11 medium-sized towns and 22 smaller towns by 2010.





An Abandoned Man

Writer: Huang Songhui (黃松輝)

Born in Shantou, Guangdong. Has lived in Hong Kong since 1984. Was a reporter for the HK China Tourism Press. Currently a freelance photographer. Has had work published in China Tourism, Traveler, and Vogue magazines.

While packing up some old things before moving to my new house, I found two folded pieces of "xuanzhi", a kind of paper made at Xuancheng in Anhui Province, and the best for Chinese paintings. Opening them, I saw some vigorous Chinese calligraphy. Suddenly, a scene from 10 or more years ago flashed through my mind...

I travelled to lots of places in China when a reporter with the HK China Tourism Press in the late 1980s. At that time, I took more flights than buses. One day in early winter, I made a report in Qingdao, an enchanting coastal city in Shandong Province. It was the first time I had seen Qingdao when the cold winds were blowing and the trees were withered.

After finishing the piece, I took a leisurely stroll along the streets. In a well set up stationery store, I saw a unique calligraphy work with a powerful style hanging on the wall. Though the signature of "永順左筆" (drawn by Yongshun with the left hand) was not that of a well-known artist, the energetic writing still very much attracted me. The shopkeeper who was about 60 years old told me quietly, "If you like this man's work, better go and see him personally. He lives in a hutong (small lane) nearby." Before I left, he emphasised this: The man is very ugly, don't be frightened by him!

The elderly man drew me a simple street map to guide me. In a state of curiosity I followed the map down the streets and lanes. Soon I reached a low, gloomy single-storey house. Ringing the doorbell, I waited for a

while before hearing the sound of coughing. The door was opened slightly and a tall, somewhat hunchbacked shadow moved in front of me. Like a montage, a "dark" face suddenly appeared. Despite being psychologically prepared, I was still shocked.

This was a seriously burnt face which had not been repaired with skin grafts. A large part of the skin was burnt like peeled bark. Only a pair of deep, strong eyes were shining in the dark. Such a scene brought to mind my memories of the actor in the Mandarin movie "The Phantom Lover".

I boldly explained my reason for coming, and followed him into the dim guest room. There were only a few scruffy pieces of furniture in the simply decorated home. Large piles of books in a huge bookcase manifested his interests. In front of the poky little window a large drawing desk occupied nearly half the space of the room. A scattered profusion of drawing paper covered with calligraphy gave off a light smell of Chinese ink...

I took my time in choosing his works. My professional instincts were aroused and I was more interested in understanding this mysterious man in front of me.

Perhaps he had been isolated for some time, as our topics ranged from drawing to calligraphy, from religion to philosophy, from the North to the South... but he was reluctant to speak much of his frustrated life. Perhaps it brought back too many bitter memories. The only thing I knew was he once had a happy family. However, he was imprisoned after an

unforeseeable incident. Luck had deserted him ever since. Separated from his wife and children, his face was then badly burnt in a disastrous fire in the prison. He was actually 50-something but looked like 10 or more years older. After his release from prison, he could only make a living from Chinese calligraphy, his sole strength.

A different feeling overwhelmed me when I looked at his work again. Now I could feel the raw energy in every robust brushstroke. I knew the harshness of reality in the vigorous white spaces. I saw thousands of running horses, the roaring Yellow River. There was power like a golden rock striking the ground and the softness of a gentle breeze... I suddenly understood. In a strange and wonderful way the miserable tribulations of an unfortunate life had empowered this striking calligraphy, and enriched him.

I chose a roll of calligraphy drawing. However he refused to accept any payment, saying that friendship could not be contaminated by the stink of money. He imaginatively wrote a few words with his left hand. The phrase read "眾人皆醒我獨醉!" (All are awakened except me).

How amazing! How uninhibited!

With a piece of wet calligraphy, as well as my profound friendship, I reluctantly bade him farewell. Before leaving his house, I secretly left a few hundred dollars on his desk, if only to comfort my turbulent and sorrowful emotions.



Heaven Is High, the Emperor Far Away — Merchants and Mandarins in Old Canton

Written by: Valery M. Garrett Pages: 210

Published by: Oxford University Press (China) Ltd.

Photo & reviewed by Gloria Shang

Knowing Guangzhou, Knowing the History of China

Guangzhou, capital of South China's Guangdong Province, was known widely in the West as Canton. Situated by the Pearl River, the city has easy access to the South China Sea. Foreign trade developed earlier here than in any other port city in China. The book *Heaven Is High, the Emperor Far Away — Merchants and Mandarins in Old Canton* gives detailed accounts on Guangzhou's history of developing from an ancient port city to a modern metropolis.

Guangzhou, Where the Ancient Silk Road on the Sea Started

During the Tang Dynasty (618—907), Arabic merchants sailed from the Mid-east to Guangzhou to trade for silk and porcelain produced in China with what they had brought: spices, agate, amber, ivory and rhinoceros horn... Guangzhou became the start point of the Silk Road on the Sea. Guangzhou was one of the greatest international markets of the world.

While more and more foreign merchants settled down in Guangzhou to do business, they established their own communities, called fanfang by the Chinese, outside the city walls of Guangzhou. The author gives a vivid picture of lives of the Arabic people in the fanfang of Guangzhou: "After mooring their ships, Arab merchants made straight for the mosque next to the minaret to give thanks for a safe journey." Huaisheng (or Wai Sheng, meaning "In Memory of the Saint") Mosque, was built in 620 by Abu Wangus, an Islamic missionary who was said to be an uncle of the Prophet Muhammad. It is the oldest mosque ever found in China and one of the oldest in the world. Guangta, or Light Tower, is a minaret, which was first built in 850 and renovated in 1468. A witness of the Arabic merchants' activities in Guangzhou, Guangta and Huaisheng Mosque remain as a venue for Islamic activities as well as a tourist attraction.

A Reflection of Modern Chinese History

The title of the book shows the author's deep understanding of the Chinese history and culture. As the Central Plains in the north had headquartered ancient China's ruling authorities of various dynasties, Guangzhou, located on the southernmost edge of the Chinese mainland, separated from the northern part of the country by the Nanling Mountains, was indeed far away from the emperor, or the central ruling authorities. This gave the city a private stage to display its unique characteristics in each period of Chinese history.

Alongside foreign trade, Guangzhou was also one of the first

Chinese cities Western missionaries visited. Foreign influences had not only left Guangzhou clusters of Western-style houses in the district called Shamian, but also, in many ways, defined Guangzhou's roles in modern Chinese history. The city always stood on the frontline during the country's progressive changes.

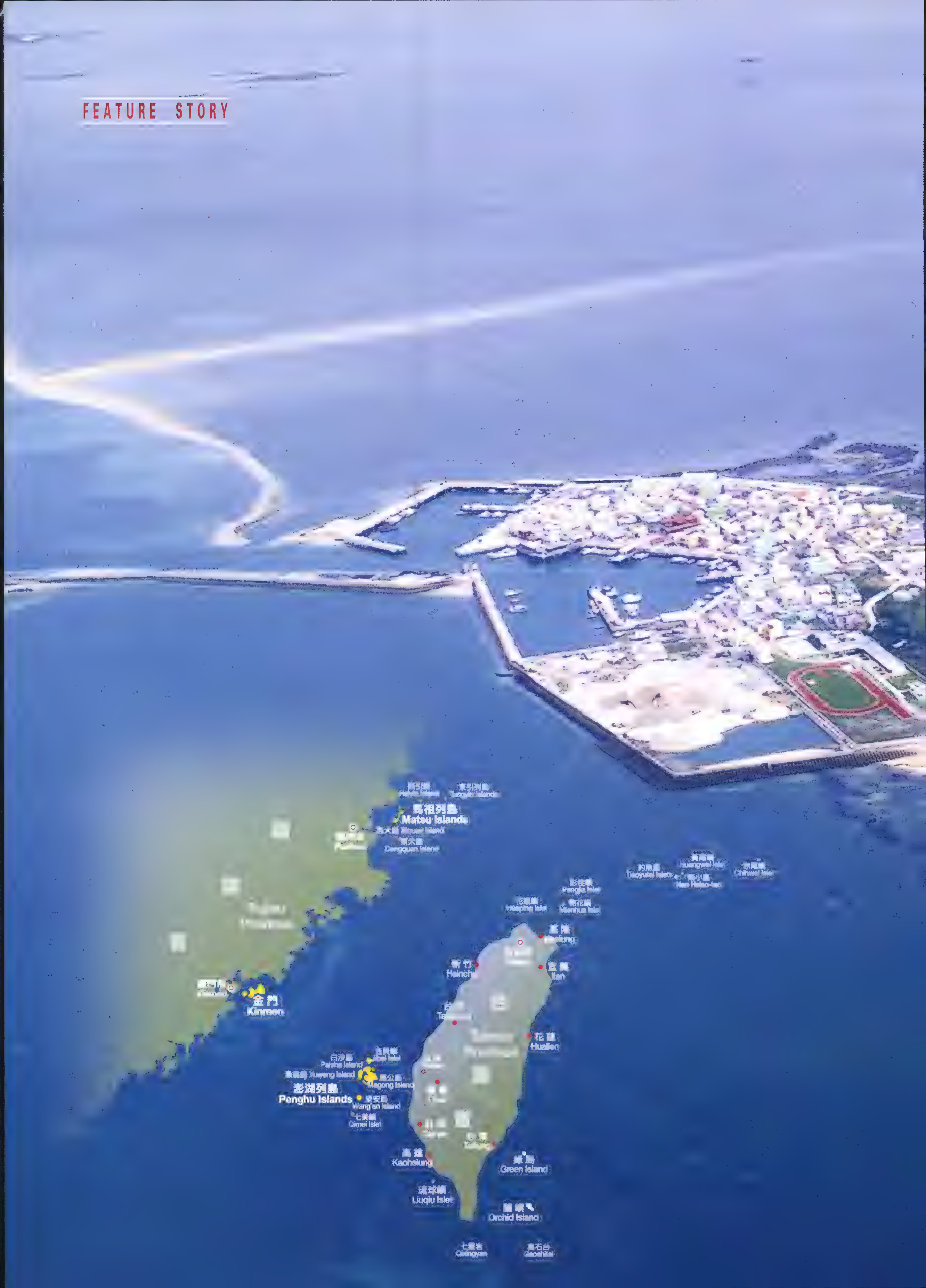
Hong Xiuquan, leader of the Heavenly Peace Kingdom, a peasant uprising that took place in the mid-19th century, was born in a village 50 km from the city proper of Guangzhou. The city was Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary base, from where he launched many uprisings and democratic movements before the victory of the 1911 Revolution. In the early 1920s, under the city government of the Republic system, kindergartens, schools and colleges following Western examples were established. Meanwhile, the Nationalist Party founded the Huangpu Military School to train officers for the North Expedition and Communist leaders, such as Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, also gathered in Guangzhou to run training courses for peasant leaders. It is not surprising that Guangzhou again led the country in the late 20th century in opening to the outside world and accelerating economic development.

Scenes of Chinese Social Lives

In the book, you are presented not only major events of various historical periods, but scenes of people's lives of the time. For example, as far as the means of transportation in the early 20th century is concerned, it writes: "The general public travelled in sedan chairs made of bamboo and covered with dusty black oil-cloth carried by two or three groaning bearers... Wealthy merchants and lower-ranking mandarins sat in smart four-bearer chairs covered with blue cloth and decorated with braid and tassels, while high officials had eight bearers...." During 1920~21, the city walls were demolished, and three-lined thoroughfares were built "so that motor buses, taxis, and trams could travel alongside rickshaws and sedan chairs." Through these lines, we can obtain a clear picture about how people of different social status travelled in the Guangzhou streets during those historical periods.

The numerous illustrations, historical photos and drawings inserted in relevant chapters make reading of this history book a pleasant enjoyment. Also, the "Addendum", including "Table of Chinese Dynasties and Periods", "Selected Bibliography" and "Index", makes readers, even those with little background in Chinese history, feel easy to read. 

FEATURE STORY



馬祖列島
Matsu Islands
南竿島 Nangan Island
北竿島 Beigan Island
東引島 Dongyin Island
西引島 Xiyin Island

釣魚臺 Diaoyutai Island
黃尾礁 Huangwei Reef
赤尾礁 Chihwei Reef
南澳島 Nan Hsiao-tao

彭佳嶼 Pengjia Islet
燕窩嶼 Wenwu Islet
彭湖嶼 Penghu Islet

新竹 Hsinchu

基隆 Keelung

宜蘭 Ilan

花蓮 Hualien

澎湖列島
Penghu Islands
白沙嶼 Baisha Islet
漁翁島 Yuweng Island
望安島 Wang'an Island
七美嶼 Qimei Islet

高雄 Kaohsiung

綠島 Green Island

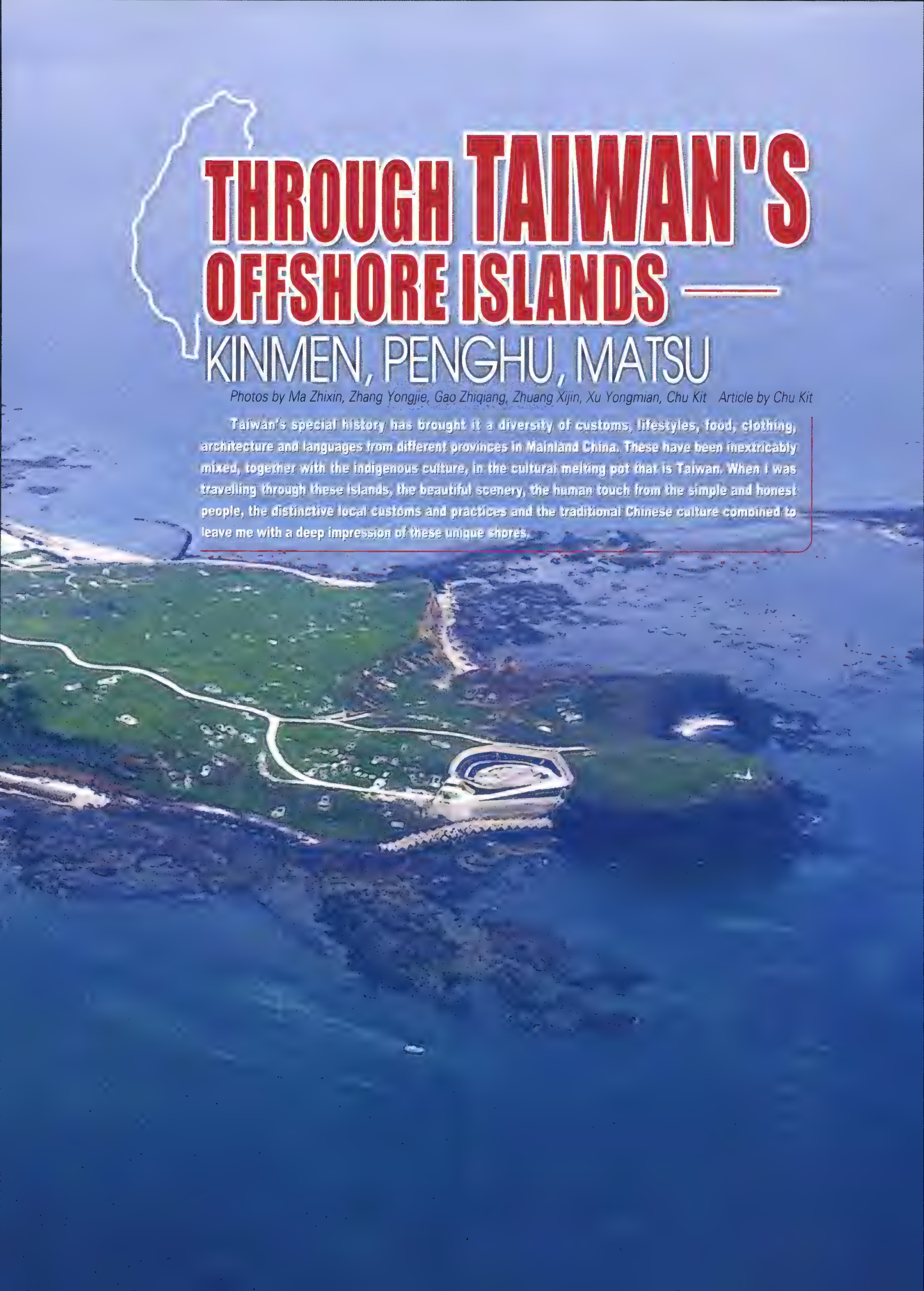
琉球嶼 Liuchiu Islet

蘭嶼 Orchid Island

七巖岩 Qibinyan

高石台 Gaoshitai

金門
Kinmen



THROUGH TAIWAN'S OFFSHORE ISLANDS —

KINMEN, PENGHU, MATSU

Photos by Ma Zhixin, Zhang Yongjie, Gao Zhiqiang, Zhuang Xijin, Xu Yongmian, Chu Kit Article by Chu Kit

Taiwan's special history has brought it a diversity of customs, lifestyles, food, clothing, architecture and languages from different provinces in Mainland China. These have been inextricably mixed, together with the indigenous culture, in the cultural melting pot that is Taiwan. When I was travelling through these islands, the beautiful scenery, the human touch from the simple and honest people, the distinctive local customs and practices and the traditional Chinese culture combined to leave me with a deep impression of these unique shores.

PENGHU — PEARLS OF WIND AND WAVES

Penghu, far away from the island of Taiwan, has more than 60 islands of its own, large and small, as if a handful of pearls had been scattered in the Taiwan Strait. There the wind carries the scent of salt and the waves sculpt the shores into scenes of spectacular beauty. The people live by and make their livelihoods from the sea, and have formed an unbreakable bond with the sea going back many generations. Once in Penghu, not only do you feel the special charms of a fishing town, but you can also indulge yourself to your heart's content on the endless beaches and throw away your city blues.



Penghu lies between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan islands. Magong is the largest of Penghu Islands' ports of Magong, Paisha and Xiyu (West Islet). The Fujianese immigrants of yesteryear used to congregate here before their fishing expeditions; now it is a major port with one commercial port and three fishing wharves. Every morning, the hustle and bustle of the No.2

fishermen's wharf market heralds another new day in Penghu. The fishermen who have just returned display their fresh produce for their customers' inspection, and when buyer and seller converse, a round of heated bargaining ensues and the scene is a lively one to watch.

Magong's Unusual Matsu Temple

The fishermen are on and off the sea all the time and therefore have a healthy respect for the vast ocean. In the centre of Magong City is a Tianhougong (Palace of Goddess of the Sea) commonly seen in the coastal areas of Taiwan. But this temple is rather unusual, being





the oldest of its kind in all of Taiwan, dating back over 400 years. It is a widely known the Taiwanese people revere the goddess Matsu and most Matsu temples are resplendent in shades of gold, but the one in Magong is a rare exception. It turns out the authorities wanted to preserve the temple's "original character" and therefore no additions or renovations have been made to it. It's said that the delicately rendered

Opening page: Penghu has numerous beautiful little islands, 64 altogether, but only 20 are inhabited and the rest are no-man's isles (by Ma Zhixin)

1. Penghu weather is rather dry and windy. To protect themselves from sun, wind and sand, women cover their faces with scarves, leaving just their eyes exposed (by Ma Zhixin)
2. These traditional Sanshen (Three Immortals) pagodas at Waian, a modern fishing village on West Islet, are symbols of protection (by Ma Zhixin)
3. Shawei Beach on Jibei Islet is noted for its clear water and fine sand, but recent sand erosion has raised concerns (provided by Penghu Scenic Area Administration)
4. Waian fishing port which looks magnificent during the Lantern Festival with all the lights blazing brilliantly on hundreds of fishing boats (by Ma Zhixin)





shapes, fine carvings, wooden sculptures, and the elegant and refined columns and corners are all works from the Tangshan master of the time. Compared to the increasing numbers of modern buildings that have popped up around it, the temple is neither ostentatious nor striking, just calm and serious like a wise old man. So the name of the city is derived from this temple.

Fenggui, at the far western tip of Magong, is also famous because of the sea. The impact and erosion of the waves over eons has created long, narrow holes and crevices in the rocky foreshore. When the tide rises, the sea rushes into the holes and forces the air out through the crevices, and as the waves burst from the hole, a deep booming sounds as though from bellows. But this spectacular sight is only possible when tides are very high or during the windy season. Fenggui is very quiet and well behaved on normal days.

Laogu Stone Houses Withstand Strong Gales

The natives of Penghu are closely connected to the sea and their daily needs are often met by the resource-rich ocean. Whether it's for building houses, planting crops or fishing, they use a special rock from the sea called the Laogu stone. This rock is actually coral limestone, or



dead coral reefs. During slack periods, the locals forage for dried coral reefs on the beach, cut them into pieces and leave them to dry for three to four years until all the salt has been leached out, by which time the rock becomes an ideal construction material. They lay the Laogu stone using a mortar mixed from lime, brown sugar and glutinous rice. The houses and walls built from this material not only look attractive, they are cool in summer and warm in winter. Because

Penghu is relatively flat and surrounded by the sea, it has always been a windy place. When the northeasterlies of winter arrive, they are force 8 gales. Apparently, these seemingly fragile and rough surfaces of Laogu stone actually have the effect of lessening the wind force. Locals often say, no matter how strong the wind, the Laogu stone houses can withstand it, but do not ever push them by hand, because they will fall over. The truth of the saying remains to be proven, but it's a fact that these coral reef houses are found everywhere in Penghu.

Due to the winds and the scarcity of rain, Penghu does not have

gradually disappearing and the beaches shrinking. It looks like the survival of this "paradise" is in god's hands.

Actually Jibei's attraction is not limited to its beaches. A motorbike ride around the coastline will convince anyone it is a place of rare beauty. On the flat and open land are sparse grass and flowers, while all around are vast blue waters. The basalt coastal topography provides scenery that is never boring, and you'll see many birds flying gracefully overhead. If this isn't enough to ease your stress and relax you, probably nothing will. Graves are another Jibei feature, which if

encountered in other places might be disturbing but feel totally different here. Due to the aging Penghu population, and with the locals accustomed to burials, Penghu now has "many graves" as well as its "many bays and temples". In Jibei, especially the seaside areas, it's no exaggeration that every 10 steps brings you to a new grave. They are mostly traditionally "arms embrace" style graves made of cement, flat on the land and overlooking the sea. The peace and calm is oddly moving. These fishermen spent their lives close to the tumultuous sea, and even when they die still want to be close to the beloved ocean that bred and nurtured them and their descendants. Isn't the relationship between mankind and Mother Nature all about "love and devotion"?

Lots of Lighthouses in Penghu

Looking north from Jibei Yu, you can see Penghu's northernmost and tiniest island — Mudou Yu. This place is only the size of four basketball courts, but its significance cannot be overlooked. The surrounding seas are filled with hidden reefs on which ships often founder, so in 1902 in the Qing Dynasty, a lighthouse was built on the island around 40 feet high to warn ships sailing near the area. Speaking of lighthouses, the entire Penghu County has a total of 24, the highest number in East Asia. Painted black and white, the striking and attractive Mudou Yu Lighthouse is the tallest iron lighthouse in all of East Asia. Some tour guides in Penghu say, because the lighthouse is responsible for international seafaring safety the keeper receives an "international" salary, not in Taiwanese currency, but the hard currency of the greenback! Disappointingly, the

many agricultural products. The small area of arable land on the island has been used to grow peanuts, yams, loofah melons and honeydew melons. To protect their meagre crops from the winds, the islanders normally build shelter walls from Laogu stone and basalt rock, which from a distance create a dense chequered pattern, commonly known as "beehive land".

Peaceful Seaside Graves in Jibei

Penghu has numerous beautiful small islands, 64 altogether, with a combined area of around 127 square kilometres. Only 20 of the islands are inhabited, the others are all no-man's islands. The 60-odd islands are mainly scattered to the north, south and east of the main island, so locals call the waters they lie in Beihai (north sea), Nanhai (south sea) and Donghai (east sea) respectively.

The largest island in Beihai — Jibei Yu (Jibei Islet) — is the best-known seaside resort in Penghu, with enough sandy beaches stretching for several thousand feet to satisfy any water-lover. Pretty little huts on the beach can be rented and life doesn't get any more romantic than lying on the beach counting the stars! But we are told that due to changes in wind direction and ocean currents, the sand is

1. Penghu abounds with seafood. At about 5 a.m. every day the fish market at the No. 2 fishing port at Magong city attracts lots of buyers (by Zhang Yongjie)
2. Penghu people have made a living from fishing since ancient times. But today's young generation prefers a different lifestyle (by Ma Zhixin)
3. In Xiyu Township, dozens of old houses in the southern Fujian style are built of Laogu stone, the coral limestone from dead reefs. The Chen' House built in 1911 was among the best, which was listed as Grade C historical relic (by Ma Zhixin)





guide couldn't tell us who paid the wages.

Xianjiao Yu to the south of Jibei Yu used to be a no-man's island. Apparently the sand washed away from Jibei all came here. Now it not only has Jibei's sands but also some of its tourists. In recent years, entrepreneurs saw the booming tourism on the beaches of Jibei Yu and began to develop this quiet island made of nothing but corals and shells — and plenty of sand. In the peak season, boatloads of tourists come over and have fun on the island. But beware, fresh water is so precious on Xianjiao Yu that to have a shower after splashing around in the sea costs NT\$30 (or around HK\$6.5). Also, don't forget to leave behind any corals or shells to protect the ecology and do your bit as a responsible tourist.

The islands of Beihai also include Gupo Yu, Tiezhan Yu, Tudigong Yu, Jin Yu and Quzhua Yu, of which Gupo Yu is a well-known purple



seaweed production base. Every year when winter arrives, the village chief leads villagers in boats to harvest the seaweed. Ritual is important to these seaweed collectors, and not until after the firecrackers have sounded and the command is given can they begin collecting. Precisely two hours later everyone stops in unison and leaves by boat. This allows the seaweed to grow back for next year's harvest, so it is a smart and rational system.

Poignant Qimei Legend

Compared to the colourful sights of Beihai, Nanhai has distinctive charms of its own. Qimei (Seven Beauties) Yu at its southern end, or Dayu (Great Islet) as it was known historically, has a population of around 2,000 and ferry and air links to the main island. If the name "Qimei", or "seven beauties", conjures up images of svelte maidens, then the famous Shuangxin Shihu, or "Stone Ponds of Two Hearts" adds to the romantic associations. However the tale of the "seven beauties" is poignant rather than heart-warming. Legend has it that some invaders in the Ming Dynasty (1368—1644) saw seven young girls washing laundry by a well. Their unwelcome attentions were rejected by the seven girls, who drowned themselves in the well

rather than bear the shame. To commemorate these strong-willed and dignified young women, the locals filled in the well and erected tombstones. Afterwards seven citron trees grew on the grave, filling the area with refreshing fragrance. The island came to be known as the place of Seven Beauties. Nowadays, aside from paying homage to the beauties' resting place, you can use your geographic knowledge and explore the complex coastal landscapes found here.

Along the shore north from the island's Yueli Port, endless basalt formations can be seen. Qimei locals love to keep sheep and all over the island black sheep range freely. The black woolly fellows alternate between eating grass and staring at people in the cutest way, rounding off the island's friendly image.

1. The Huayu (Flower Islet) lighthouse is one of 24 lighthouses in Penghu (by Zhang Yongjie)
2. These beautiful stone intertwined hearts in Qimei are a fish trap. The fish swim in on a rising tide and are caught when it ebbs (by Zhang Yongjie)
3. Zhongyang Street in Magong was the first place developed in Penghu. The street's Four Wells once provided water for the residents (by Chu Kit)
4. Qimei has unique topography. At the Dashi (Huge Lion) Scenic Area, tourists admire the Huge Lion formed from many twisted basalt columns (by Ma Zhixin)





Interestingly animal husbandry on Wang'an, the other island to the north of Qimei, focuses on brown cows. Large herds of cows feed and wander over the endless expanse of grassland on the island's highest point, Tiantai Mountain, a mere 53 metres above sea level, creating idyllic natural farming scenes. Zhongshe village in the island's west was home to an old "tribe" of the early Qing Dynasty and is one of the best kept sites in Penghu. You will find neat rows of Laogu stone houses there, some detailed and others simple in design, revealing the owner's status. A few elderly people are said to still live in the village, but some of the houses have not withstood the test of time and have crumbled or collapsed.

Basalt Columns Rival Yellowstone Park

From Wang'an northwards, two connected islands lie close to the main island — Hujing Yu and Tongpan Yu. Both are famous for their spectacular basalt columns. Penghu is Taiwan's only basalt archipelago, formed as long ago as 18 million years from lava flows. After the lava cooled, different types of basalt topography resulted. The Fangshan area in Tongpan Yu has the most impressive formations, with the entire small island surrounded by vast clearly-defined columns. No wonder the locals call these works of art by Mother Nature "Penghu's Yellowstone Park". Apparently this

topography occurs after the lava has cooled and shrunk, when the pentagonal or hexagonal columns split and form clear divisions. All these sights are breathtaking.

Donghai's Enchanting No-man's Isles

The islands in the Donghai area that catch the eye with their strange basalt topography include Yuanbei Yu, Paisha Yu, Niao Yu, Jishan Yu and Dinggou Yu. Because the latter's basalt columns have varying heights due to sea and wind erosion, they rival the famous scenery at Guilin, giving the place the name of "Guilin on the seas". As the islands are uninhabited, every March to September large flocks of swallows and seagulls gather there and form an awesome sight. But at present, Dinggou Yu, Paisha Yu and Jishan Yu are all part of the basalt reserve, so tourists can only view them by boat from afar and are not permitted on shore.

Translated by Cheng Lei



1. Tongpan Islet is famous for its striking basalt columns. Locals call these natural artworks "Penghu's Yellowstone Park" (by Zhang Yongjie)
2. In this traditional folk activity at Wuqian in Penghu, a treasured thousand-year-old boat goes on tour (by Zhang Yongjie)
3. Due to winds and lack of rain, Penghu can only grow peanuts, yams, loofah and honeydew melons. To protect the crops, islanders build shelter walls from Laogu stone, creating interesting "beehive" patterns (by Zhang Yongjie)

Seeking Magong's Unique Stores

The influx of tourists has led to the emergence of many specialty stores in Penghu's commercial centre, Magong City. Some are in main streets, others hidden in small alleys, but one thing in common is the shop owners' attitude: they put personal interests above making money. You will find most of them warm and friendly, without the coldness and condescending attitudes usually encountered in large city stores. To them, their shop is a way of life and a source of fun rather than merely dollars and cents. Only five are mentioned here for brevity's sake, but you can discover many more if you take the time!

Judao Yishi 菊島軼事

For three years this shop has mainly sold T-shirts handpainted by the owners, ornaments made from driftwood and pebbles, and shell photograph frames, etc. The sister and brother team who own the shop came back to their homeland from Taiwan simply because their father had said "You can't forget your own roots". The owners are sincere, chatty and most helpful when it comes to telling visitors what to see and visit in Penghu and they have a fund of stories about the place. The shop is so popular it is full of letters, emails and photographs from happy customers.

Add: 30, Zhongyang St, Magong City
Tel: (06) 9271937

Penghu Gushi Qi 澎湖故事妻

This shop selling souvenirs to tourists has enjoyed many years in business and achieved considerable fame. Its main wares are T-shirts and singlets bearing pictures and interesting thoughts on daily life that the lady owner has painted. Customers can create their own. It also sells postcards, and books written by the shop owner and her son, as well as other items in the same vein. After too many interviews from the media and queries from curious customers, the owner has written answers to the most frequently asked questions such as "Why was this name chosen for the shop?" and "Does the paint wash off?", on a giant T-shirt displayed in the shop. If you still want to try your luck asking a question, you'd better have good technique.

Add: 25 Haipu Rd, Magong City Tel: (06) 9274648

Hai Re Cai Gallery 海惹猜飾館

The longhaired owner is a young man who likes to write fiction and songs, using the nom de plume of 17 degrees. The shop only opened in March 2002 and it mainly sells romantic and intimate items like "36 reasons for loving you", a personal creation by 17 degrees. You can choose one of the "reasons" and place it in a key-ring bottle filled with beach sand to give to a loved one, or even place all 36 reasons in one large bottle as a gift. These unique ideas are bound to find favour with the romantically inclined. There are also "love bottles" for the different star signs, and a "message in a bottle" that lets you send your love via the ocean, or the "release your soul" area in the shop, all highly recommended by the shop owner.

Add: 7-4 Linhai Rd, Magong City
Tel: (06) 9273318

Huacai Gan 花菜乾

If you want to sit in a Laogu stone house and taste traditional Penghu fare, pay a visit to Huacai Gan. This restaurant has been running for two years and is very popular among locals, because these plain and simple dishes remind everyone of the way life used to be. The owner rented an old house previously used as a storeroom, and found some old furniture, glass floats to use as lanterns, and old groceries' signboards as wall decorations ... one by one the individual touches created a nostalgic atmosphere. What's more, the owner cooks for the customers. The "Huacai Gan" dish is the restaurant's signature, so no wonder it's the shop name as well. Also try potato stir-fried with mustard vegetable, sour gourd steamed with belly fish, etc.

Add: 4-2 Dongwen Lane, Magong City Tel: (09) 9216245



Sha Ai Zhuang 傻愛莊

This delightful white building in the early Minguo style used to be the ancestral home of Penghu's first county mayor. The woman owner leased it in 1994 and turned it into a small restaurant serving Penghu-style fare. The eatery's romantic story is that the man who is now her husband was a former customer, so it seems the way to a man's heart indeed is through his stomach. The decor is comfortable and warm, making one feel at home immediately. Food wise, the specialties to try are the owner's special creations: coral pancake, pumpkin wide noodles, fragrant rice and pastries made from cactus fruit. To wash it all down, the "five tastes" fruit cocktail made from five different juices is just the quencher.

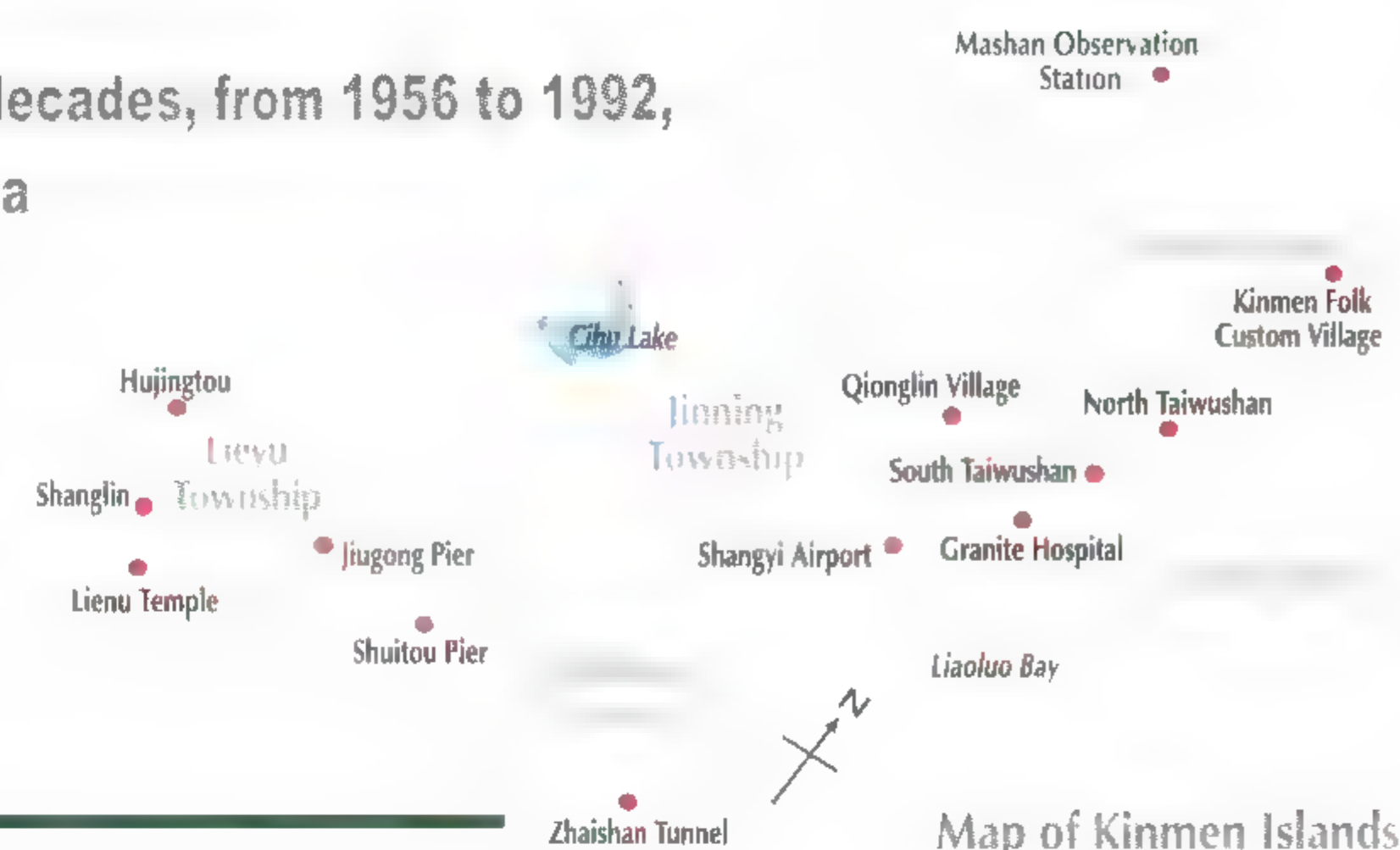
Add: 14 Xincheng Rd, Magong City Tel: (06) 9263693



KINMEN — NO LONGER THE FRONTLINE FOR WAR

The trip to Kinmen was both exciting and nerve wracking. For more than three decades, from 1956 to 1992, the islands were under wartime emergency rule and martial law. Kinmen became a forbidden area, gaining a great deal of mystery for outsiders. As time slipped by, relations across the Taiwan Strait thawed and thus the end of 1992 saw the removal of martial law and military rule. On February 7, 1993, the place was opened to tourists. What was there to see on these islands that had been clouded by the atmosphere of war?

I was gripped by a strong sense of curiosity.



Soon the plane touched down on the runway of the only airfield on Kinmen Islands. I had been told by my travel agency I would be met at the airport by Mr. Chen, a local driver doubling as a tour guide. As I sat

in his bright yellow taxi, he began the introduction: "Kinmen is tiny with a small population. Since it has opened to tourists, we taxi drivers mostly serve tourists as both drivers and guides." I had learned before

I set out on the trip that the local population used to make a living serving soldiers but now looked after tourists, but I had no idea there were so many tourists coming and going.

More Roads Than in Taiwan

The car sped along the straight central road on Kinmen Island. Known as the Boyu Road, it is the island's main thoroughfare. Now suddenly this small place had a greater mileage of roads than anywhere in Taiwan.

Every visitor is fully aware of Kinmen's particularly sensitive background but on the road I saw no one in military uniform, which was a bit of a surprise. The Kinmen Islands, a group of over 10 islands, include Kinmen itself, Lie Yu (also known as Lesser Kinmen), Dadan and Erdan, and have a combined population of more than 50,000. Since the removal of military rule on November 7, 1992, the number of troops stationed here has been reduced from more than 100,000 to less than 10,000. Still, one out of every five of the population is with the military. Later, as well as in the areas near the barracks, I saw many young men in military fatigues at the post office, banks, supermarkets, bookstores and Internet cafes. Some of them were there doing business while some apparently were enjoying their holiday. Their brisk steps and light-hearted spirit told me nothing was more valuable than peace.

Home of Tunnels

The flames of war have long been extinguished but many military facilities still remain, providing unique





destinations for tourists. The most numerous and eye-opening examples of its military past are Kinmen's tunnels. With Taiwu Hill as the centre, many tunnels were dug to store ammunition and food, and provide shelter to soldiers. From then on tunnels appeared all over Kinmen, creating a mysterious world under the land surface. The underground tunnels at Qionglin Village in Jinhua Town impressed me most.

Qionglin Village, halfway up Kinmen Island, is a beautiful place with typical traditional south Fujian architecture. As the village faces Xiamen Bay on the mainland across the sea, it was regarded as strategically important to the defence of the island. In the 1970s, the Kuomintang soldiers built a



1. The rail and concrete defences on the beach at Kinmen bear witness to the cross-strait tensions of the past (by Chu Kit)
2. Every visitor is aware of Kinmen's sensitive military background (by Chu Kit)
3. Kinmen's unique public telephone booth (by Chu Kit)
4. In Kinmen, one in five of the population is a soldier (by Gao Zhiqiang)



network of crisscrossing tunnels under the village

Into the Mysterious Tunnel

I ran into several village kids playing at the entrance to the tunnel by the village office. At the end of the staircases, the tunnel made a turn and a long narrow underground path appeared. On the rough cement wall, a row of fluorescent lamps dimly illuminated the way and

extended into the distance like a long and mysterious snake. In the cool air of the tunnel, I pushed on, humming in my head to pluck up courage. The tunnel was very narrow, accommodating only one person. The surroundings offered nothing to relieve the grim atmosphere. I moved forward, seeing only the monotonous succession of lamps and the uniform path. Now and then I saw bays in the side of the tunnel marked with the words "Hiding position" and wondered if there was anyone really hiding there. The tunnel zigzagged, misleading me into believing I had come to the end. Each end only turned out to be a new beginning, without any marks or symbols. Except for my own footsteps, the whole place was deathly quiet. Scenes from horror movies began to flash through my thoughts. I quickened my steps, hoping to reach the end soon and have some fresh air.

"Miss...Chu? It...is...me. The...driver!" "Ah, it is you! But where are you?" "I'm waiting for you at the exit." As I turned another corner, I suddenly found myself approaching the end of the tunnel. And there he was. Mr. Chen was standing there waiting for me. "When I heard the footsteps, I knew it was you. I called out to you because I wanted to tell you that you were near the exit." Seeing I looked rather tired, he inquired with concern: "How was it? You must be tired." I looked at my watch and realised I had only spent 10 minutes in the tunnel. But it seemed like half a century down there. I refrained from telling him I was alarmed when I heard his voice in the tunnel but could not make out who it was. Under the blue sky, I felt like I had just been reborn.

A Secret Barrack on the Seabed

Compared with claustrophobic underground tunnels, the small Zhaishan Ship Tunnel by the sea is much more spacious. This tunnel, hidden near Gugang at the southwest side of Kinmen Island, was built by blasting a huge U-shaped land-water tunnel with explosives. It is

also the most recently opened tunnel for visitors. Its most striking feature is that the tunnel leads directly to the sea. During high tide, small supply ships could sail right into the tunnel, safe from gunfire, keeping a steady flow of supplies for the army stationed there. At low tide, people could simply pick up sea food that "surrendered" itself on the sandy bed, providing another source of food supply. A walk in the tunnel was extremely pleasant because of the cool air and gentle splashing of waves faintly heard in the distance. There are many tablets marked with numbers in the tunnel, indicating the berth position of each ship. Near the entrance are several cement-partitioned rooms that once served as officers quarters. At another location, cement walls divide the tunnel into sections and behind each wall is a water storage tank, which once provided water for a platoon. And each of the small spaces created by the cement walls used to be sleeping quarters for a platoon. In general, the whole tunnel is like a secret seabed barracks.

I learned that when building the tunnel, soldiers put explosives into holes chiseled into the rocks and decided if all the dynamite had exploded by counting the number of blasts. However explosions in the cavernous tunnel easily created echoes. Soldiers often mistook echoes for the sounds of real explosions and returned to the tunnel to continue work before all the dynamite in every hole had actually gone off, only to be caught in more blasts that cost their lives. Obviously war always does harm than good to the human race.

A Mountain Cave Hospital

Taiwu Hill, 253 metres above sea level, boasts more tunnels than any other place on Kinmen. Since it is the highest point on the island, it was naturally a position of strategic importance. Beneath the lush woods a network of crisscrossing tunnels of all sizes honeycombed the hill. For obvious military reasons, visitors can only go on the hill from 4:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. All the tunnels in the hill are still guarded by the military and not open to outsiders, with the sole exception of Granite Hospital on the southern slope of Taiwu Hill.



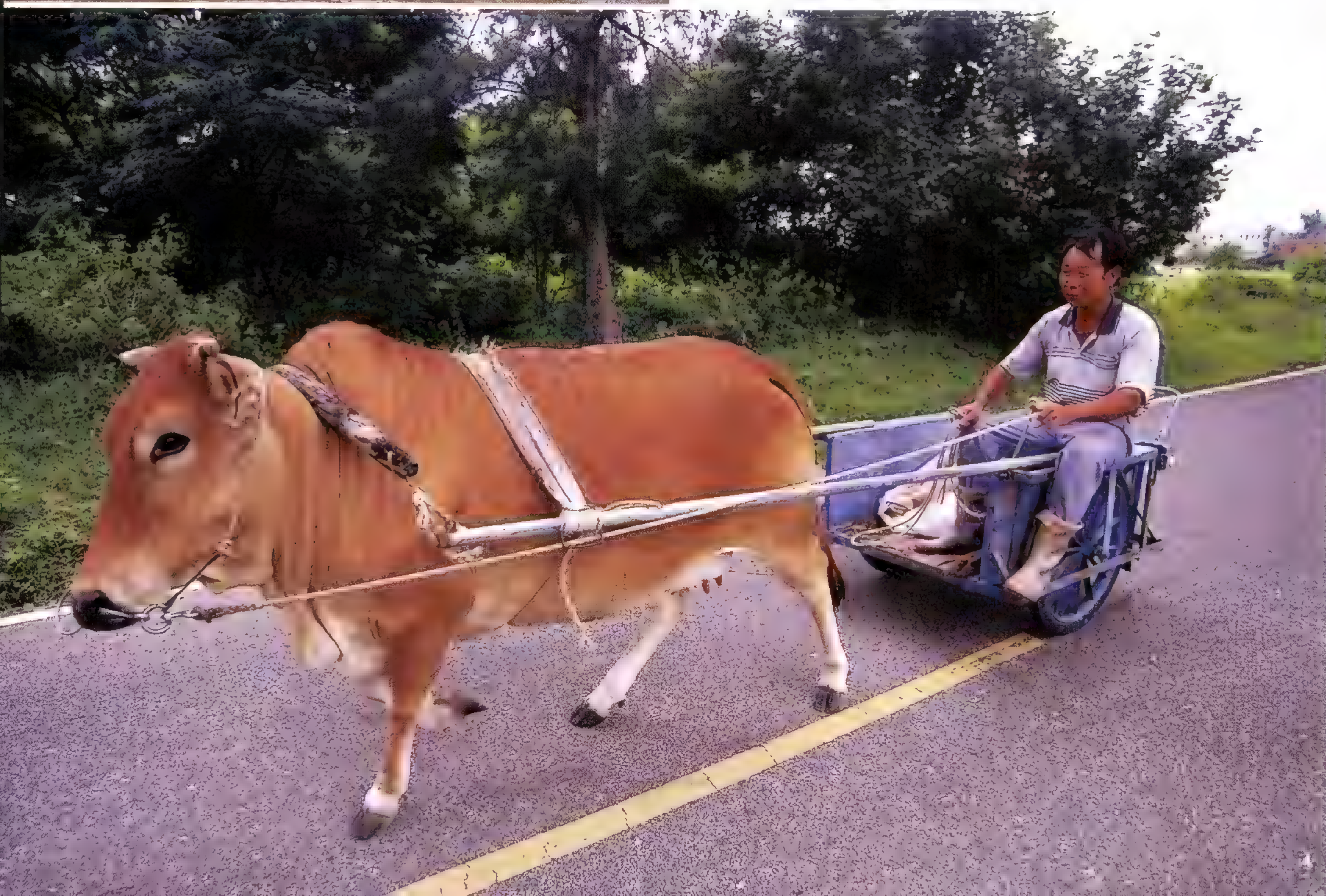
I have been to many hospitals but this was the first time I had seen one hidden in a mountain cave. This large second-level army field hospital with ultra-sophisticated equipment lies deep under the granite hill. Three horizontal and nine vertical tunnels extending for 1,800 metres make moving the wounded easy in time of war. Built in two years, the hospital was completed in 1980 and not only provides medical care to the military and their families, but also serves islanders. I was told critically ill people from anywhere on the island were always brought here for treatment. If the hospital cannot cure the patient, the person is then taken to the main island of Taiwan, indicating the importance of this cave hospital. Out of curiosity, I went

inside the hospital and saw a long corridor lined with rooms marked emergency, surgery, internal medicine, in-patient wards, operating theatres and clinics. There were people being admitted, visiting patients and white-uniformed nurses hurrying by. Naturally the atmosphere was permeated with disinfectant. On the whole it was just like any other ordinary hospital. The only difference was everything I saw was in a mountain cave. The hospital staff said a central ventilation system regulated the air 24 hours a day to keep it fresh. There was also a war emergency system, gas-removal system, emergency communication system and an electricity generation system... Despite all of this, I could not help asking myself if the patients really enjoyed receiving treatment here, away from the blue sky and the singing of birds?

Shelter Turned Wine Cellar

Apart from the network of tunnels, most villages on Kinmen Island have no fewer than two large anti-air-raid shelters each. Many homes also had underground shelters for escaping gunfire. Mr. Chen told me the local government once had a regulation that when islanders built a new house, they had to build an underground shelter at the same time.

1. The kids of Kinmen were playing at the mouth of a tunnel (by Chu Kit)
2. The crisscrossing tunnels under Qionglin village in Kinmen have 12 emergency exits (by Chu Kit)
3. This large hospital with ultra-sophisticated equipment in Kinmen lies deep under the granite hill (by Chu Kit)
4. The cowcart is this Kinmen farmer's mode of transport (by Chu Kit)





The government would send officials to the house site to inspect it and only when the requirements were met could the residents move into their new homes. At that time, people stored large amounts of food and water in the shelters in preparation against war. This regulation was abolished at the end of military rule.

Learning that Mr. Chen had such a shelter, I asked him what he used it for now. "For storing sorghum liquor." His answer surprised me. So he explained: "In peacetime, the shelter is wasted if it cannot be put to some use. So I put all the Kinmen brand sorghum liquor in it. Many people here do the same. The shelters are usually very cool and damp, ideal places for wine cellars." Kinmen liquor is one of the local brands much to the liking of many islanders. Turning wartime

underground shelters into wine cellars in peace time really says a lot about how things have changed!

Knife Industry Born Amid Gunfire

Mention Kinmen steel knives, and everybody from Taiwan will nod in approval. They are famous not only because they are sharp and durable, but more importantly because they are made from cannon shells. In 1958, when the two sides across the sea were locked in a war of artillery fire, As people tried to get away from the place, some business-minded islanders had a clever idea. I visited one of the two most famous knife makers on the island — the Jinheli (金合利) Knife Factory. Mr. Wu Zengdong is the third-generation owner of this factory. His grandfather and father used to make farm tools and later they began to make knives from cannon shell fragments.

The tall and open-faced Mr. Wu recalled when his father, a farm tool blacksmith, realised that the massive army stationed on the island needed large supplies of meat, he targeted the market for butchers' knives. Later as life improved for the islanders, he began to make kitchen choppers. His quality products made him a household name. Soldiers returning to Taiwan liked to take his kitchen choppers with them, helping spread his name. When Kinmen opened up to tourists, people arriving from the main island of Taiwan brought more



business. Mr. Wu told me at that time his whole family worked from early morning to late at night. Sometimes they worked through the night but still could not satisfy the market demand. "At the time we did everything by hand and could only turn out 100 knives a day and they were sold out the same day. There were people queuing outside our house." In recent years, Mr. Wu Zengdong has produced many new types of knives including those for cutting fish, slicing fish meat and for mountaineers and has opened up a new market among Japanese tourists. He demonstrated in the factory behind his store the whole process of making a knife, from cutting the shell, forging, dipping in water, pressing and grinding to putting on the handle and engraving patterns. In a little more than ten minutes, he had a shining brand new knife ready. And it was a beautiful product!

Markets Bursting with Mainland Goods

For tourists to Kinmen, there are other things to buy apart from knives-merchandise from the mainland of China. Its short distance from Xiamen on the mainland allows the island to have a steady supply of a wide range of products shipped in from the opposite side. From fruits, vegetables and meat to clothes, shoes, socks and every kind of family necessity, you name it, you can have it. Jiguang Road in the old

I was told this was a new situation that emerged last year after the Taiwanese authorities allowed transport connections, known as the "lesser three links". Kinmen islanders have eased their objections to mainland fishing vessels. In the past, they were not allowed to get anywhere near the island, but now fishermen from the mainland can come ashore. And many of the mainland products come to Kinmen in fishing boats. Local people buy the goods on the shore and then resell them at the market.

The private trade in cheap goods already poses a threat to Taiwanese agricultural produce. That is why I saw signs like "It is forbidden to take mainland fruits, meat and rice to Taiwan."

"Lesser Three Links" Boosts Cross-strait Exchanges

No matter what, on Kinmen Islands you can't help but be aware of the increasing communication across the Strait. Shuttle ships sail out from the Jiugong dock on Kinmen every Tuesday and Friday and their destination is Xiamen on the mainland. Travel agencies in Xiamen have launched "Kinmen tours", to give mainlanders an opportunity to see what Kinmen is like. Mr. Chen told me a group of artists from Fujian was recently invited to exchange ceramic art at the largest government-run ceramic mill at Kinmen. Several dozen painters,

ceramic artists and art academy teachers and directors created souvenirs to present to the mill and toured the island for some days. In fact, they had only just gone before I arrived. During the Mid-autumn Festival in October 2002, the Kinmen County Government and Xiamen City Government each sent off a ship to sea in Xiamen Bay to allow people to jointly celebrate the festival and enjoy a firework display.

If you have any questions about Kinmen Islands, please don't ask me. Go and find out for yourself!

Translated by F. Huang



section of Kinmen Town is now known as the "Mainland Street" simply because all the shops there carry products from the mainland. Outside the Virtuous Woman Temple, a famous tourist attraction on Lesser Kinmen, the entire market sells brand-name goods from the mainland such as "Golden Throat" lozenges, "Zhonghua" cigarettes, and "Luzhou Laojiao" liquor. Dried mushrooms, melon seeds and hawthorn sweets also delight tourists from Taiwan. In fact, you see more of them buying mainland products than lighting candles to pray at the temple. Even outside the Wujiang Hotel where I stayed, several peddlers were displaying their mainland goods for sale after 7 p.m. These products are usually sold at higher prices than on the mainland but to Taiwanese eyes they are much cheaper and yet comparable in quality with their local products.

1. Believe or not, in Kinmen knives are made from these discarded shells (by Chu Kit)
2. Mofan Street in Jincheng of Kinmen was built in 1924 on the site of the drill ground used for military training by Zheng Chenggong in the late Ming Dynasty and combines Chinese and Japanese architectural styles (by Chu Kit)
3. Cutting up the discarded shell casing is the first step in making a knife (by Chu Kit)
4. Goods from the mainland of China can be seen everywhere in Kinmen and have been welcomed both by locals and tourists (by Chu Kit)

EASY AND PEACEFUL BIRD WATCHING

Photos by Xu Yongmian, Zhuang Xijin Article by Cai Niao

Since Kinmen was opened to tourists, many people have been there to see the mysterious facilities of this one-time battlefield, or to find out the ways of life and cultural traditions typical of south Fujian. And many nature lovers have come because of the rich resource of birds on the island. To go bird watching on Kinmen has become a draw for tourists.



As Kinmen lies in the sea off the mainland's Fujian Province, it is a natural relay station for migrating birds. In both spring and autumn, the place sees more migrating birds. From early winter to late spring is the best season to watch birds here, as flocks of water birds such as cormorants, geese, seagulls and snipes arrive on the island. To come

and watch them now will give you unexpected rewards.

Nearly 300 kinds of birds have been recorded on Kinmen and most of them are migrating or wintering here. The most varieties and greatest numbers can be seen in autumn, winter and early spring. The sights of birds in winter are really spectacular. When more than 5,000





1. Hoopoe has been regarded as an ominous bird by locals for they like to stay in tombs (by Xu Yongmian)
- 2, 4. Cormorants are wintering at Cihu Lake in Kinmen from September to April every year. There are more than 3,000 at most (by Xu Yongmian)
3. Blue-tailed bee-eater are the summer migrating birds. They came to Kinmen for breeding in March every year (by Zhuang Xijin)
5. Early in the morning, cormorants went out to look for food, so it was the best time to view and admire them (by Zhuang Xijin)

cormorants fly in and out from Cihu Lake, they create a special joy for bird lovers. Though there are fewer species of summer birds, when summer hunters such as blue-tailed bee-eaters and short-winged cuckoos arrive on the scene, a feast for the eyes awaits bird watchers who observe them catching food and raising families.

Birds on Kinmen are very different from those on Taiwan but are similar to those in South China. Many birds rarely seen in Taiwan such as the blue-tailed bee-eater, short-winged cuckoo, black-winged kite, black-headed kingfisher, lesser pied kingfisher, white-breasted kingfisher, falcated teal, oyster-catcher, magpie, hoopoe and dyal are quite common on Kinmen and thus targets of pursuit for Taiwanese bird lovers.

There are more water birds than land birds on Kinmen. Thus the several important bird-watching sites on the island such as the mouth of the Wujiang River, Cihu Lake, Tiandun sea dike and Lingshui Lake on Lesser Kinmen are all home to water birds. In winter, the seaside where the brewery at the ancient Wentai Pagoda discharges into the sea attracts thousands of ducks and geese. The mouth of the Wujiang River, the Cihu dike and the tidal water belt from Pubian to Guanao host thousands upon thousands of snipes and seagulls. Water birds change their activities according to the rise and fall of the tides. Usually an hour before the tide has fully risen is the best time to watch birds at the seaside on Kinmen.

As for land birds on Kinmen, they have integrated with the local people. To watch them, you do not have to do any climbing, just go out of the house. The tree-shaded path at Nanshan and the fields of the agricultural research institute are two of the best places to watch land birds.

Bird-Watching Gear

Telescope

As birds are always on the alert, you need a telescope to watch them from afar to see clearly what they look like and what they are doing. At close range, you still need a pair of 7x10 binoculars. For viewing from a distance, a single-tube 25x telescope is a necessity.

Bird catalogues

There are two kinds of bird books: those with painted pictures and those with photographs. The former emphasizes the specific features of each bird while the latter portrays its environment. Since the birds on Taiwan and Jinmen are not quite the same, you need a handbook featuring birds common along China's coast, south China and Hong Kong, which will surely increase your ability to distinguish different varieties of birds.

Notebook

You need a notebook with you all the time on a bird-watching trip and you should develop the habit of taking notes. You are better off taking quick notes including drawings of what you see for later reference. Only this way will you be able to remember what you have seen. Your notes should include time, location of the observation, weather, type and habits of birds.

Clothes

The best clothes are those closest in colour to the environment. Army fatigue-type clothes are the best. Please remember to avoid bright colours so you don't scare off the birds. In winter, the northerly wind is very strong on Jinmen Island and you will need really warm clothes, including caps for any sudden change in weather.

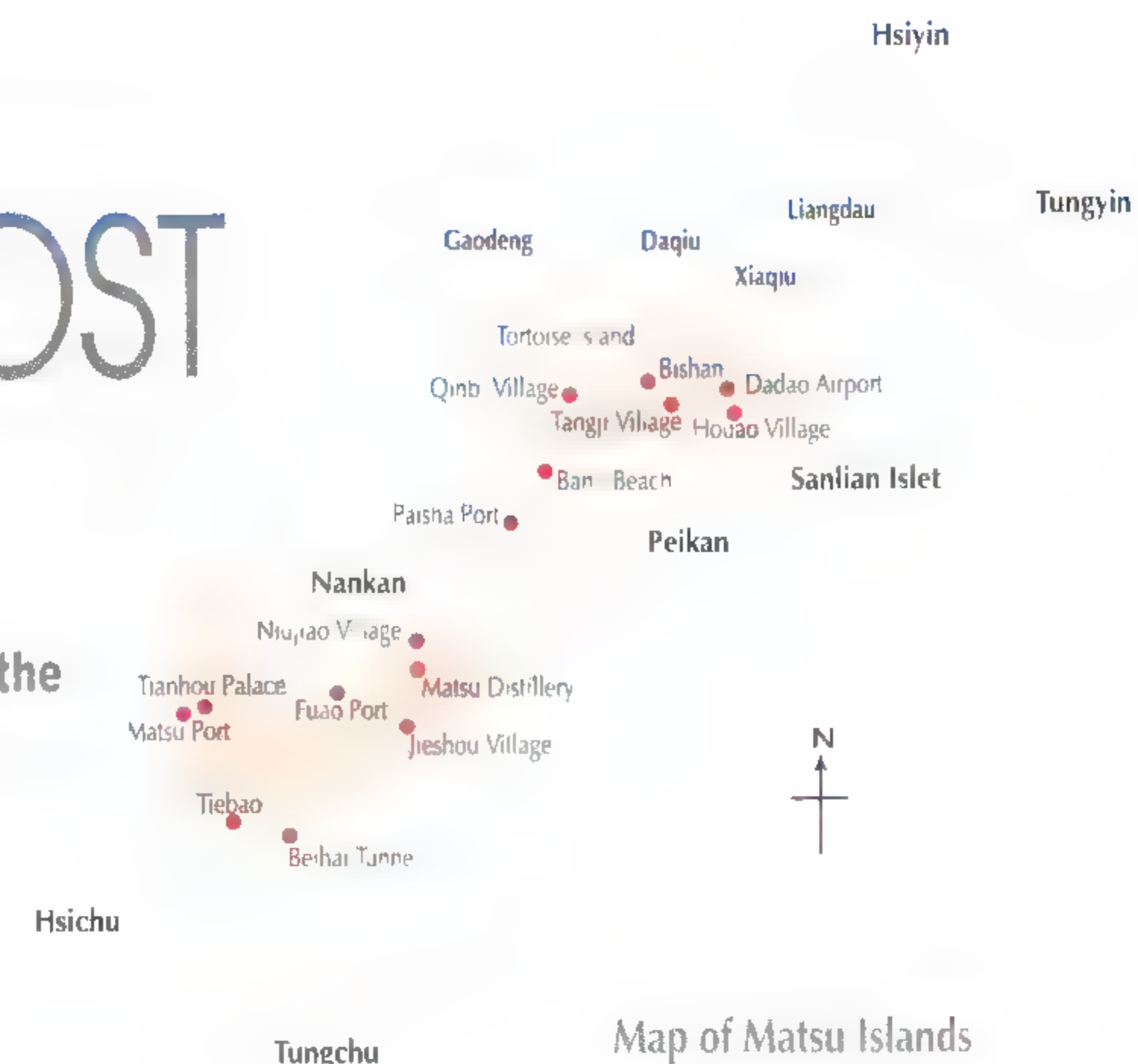
Others

Camera with zooms will allow you to capture rare bird species. Small scissors will help to cut bird-catching nets you may encounter to allow little creatures desperately in need of help to escape.



MATSU — TAIWAN'S MOST OUTLYING ISLAND

Located some way northwest of Taiwan, Matsu lies in the Taiwan Strait off the mouth of the Minjiang River, very close to Fuzhou City in China's mainland province of Fujian both geographically and in customs. Here at Matsu, people speak the Fuzhou dialect instead of the southern Fujian dialect that is commonly heard in Taiwan; buildings with courtyards in southern Fujian style are replaced by "Seal" stone houses in eastern Fujian style; and even the snacks and cuisine have a pure Fuzhou flavour.



I boarded the Taima steamship from Jilong Harbour in Taiwan, and sailed westward at 19 knots. Our ship was very steady and I slept soundly all night. It reached Nankan — the major island of Matsu — at seven in the morning.

Many people might think Matsu is a single island, but it is actually composed of many small islands such as Nankan, Peikan, Tungchu, Hsichu, Tungyin, Liang Island, Kaoteng, Tachiou and Hsiaoichiou, so it should be called an archipelago. Nankan is the largest of these islands and the cultural centre. The seaway to every island starts from Nankan.

Early Inhabitants Came from Fuzhou

Fu ao Village by the harbour is the first settlement tourists see on arriving. It is said the early inhabitants all came from Houfu Village in Changle County under Fuzhou's administration. Ever since the Yuan Dynasty (1271—1368) Matsu has had close ties with Fuzhou. Fishermen from Fuzhou began to move here in the mid 17th century between the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Villages communities were formed according to kinship and origin. There are 89 family names among the present day residents, with Chen, Lin, Cao, Wang and Liu the most numerous, quite similar to the situation in Fuzhou.

Matsu is the only place in Taiwan where the Fuzhou dialect is spoken, but most of the residents can also speak the southern Fujian dialect and Mandarin. I learned from the locals that Nangan is rather nilly with "no more than a couple of km of flat land". As there are not many buses on the island, and the roads are not at all smooth, I rented a taxi and asked Ms. Hu, the driver, to be my guide.

Fuzhou Snacks at a Morning Market

Ms. Hu, like most women taxi drivers, was frank, deft, and with a dynamic personality. Knowing I had just arrived and had not breakfasted, she drove me without being told to Jieshou Village, a most lively spot and the local government base. Residents needing groceries come to the early market held every morning from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. In addition to vegetables, fruits and meat, there are all sorts of local snacks for breakfast sure to make your mouth water.

Ms. Hu bought two Fuzhou pancakes made of seafood, eggs and dough and took me to a small store selling Dingbianhu. The busy woman storekeeper greeted us warmly and soon sent two bowls of hot rice strips boiled with shrimps, oysters and scallions. The rice strips boiled in slightly salty soup melted in the mouth, and the seafood and onion smelled so appetising. In no time the snacks were gone.

I was a little surprised to hear from Ms. Hu that Dingbianhu is a traditional homely food of Fuzhou, very popular in Matsu. But nowadays not many people take the time to cook it, and what is available may not be so nice. This store is pretty good though, as the storekeeper was newly married and a recent arrival from Fuzhou, and her cooking skills are fairly authentic.



Matsu Temple by the Sea

With our fast well broken we happily continued our tour. The hills rose and fell all the way, and gradients sometimes as steep as 45°. No wonder there are not many vehicles here, to say nothing of bicycles. Taxi is the most frequently used means of transport.

Our taxi rode the undulating terrain and before long reached Matsu Harbour — the former gateway to Nankan. Since Fuao Port

became the main port of entry, Matsu Harbour has been as tranquil as a picture, with the new and splendid golden Tianhou Palace standing by the sea. The Tianhou Palace was previously known as the Matsu Temple.

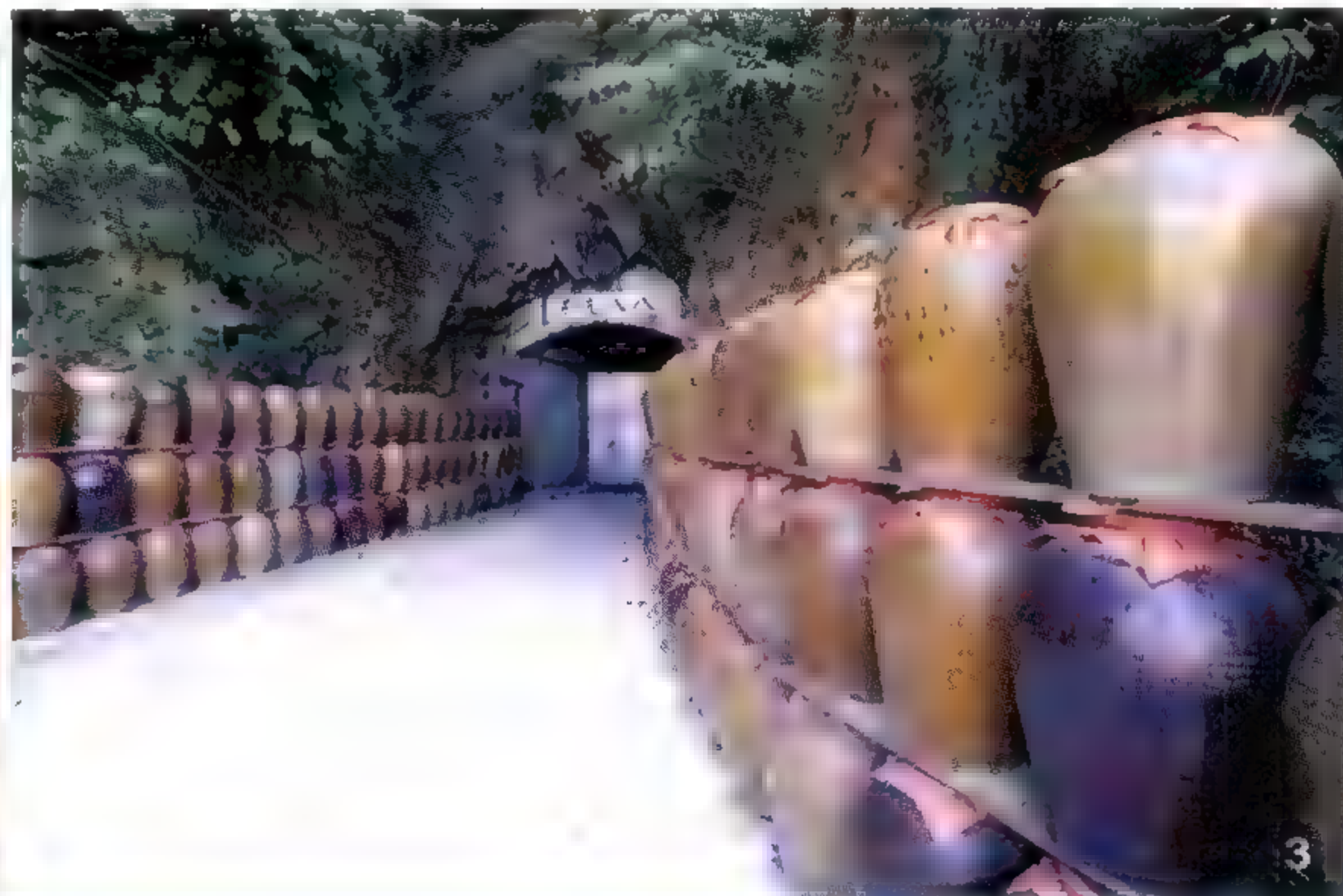
Apparently the old Matsu Temple looked dilapidated and weather beaten. Therefore the villagers collected money to build a bigger one on the same spot, which was completed on March 23, 2002 by the lunar calendar.

Tunnel with a Scent of Wine

We left Matsu Harbour, visited the military sites at Mt. Yuntai (Cloud Terrace), Ren'ai (Benevolent Love) Iron Fortress and the North Sea Tunnel, and arrived at the Matsu Brewery near Niujiao (Ox Horn) Village. As Matsu used to be a fishing village, fishermen in the old days had the habit of drinking wine to warm themselves before going out to

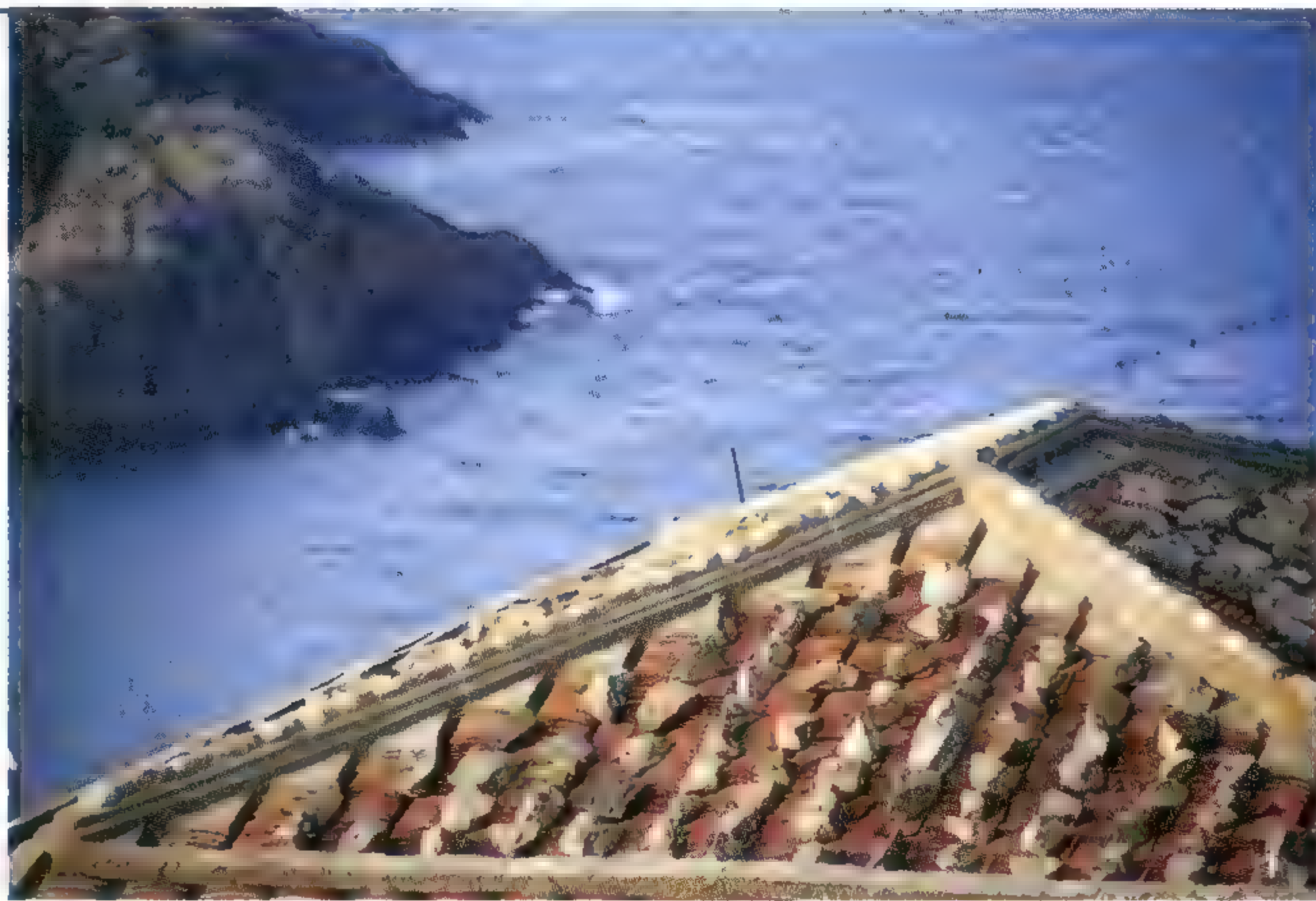
sea. So almost every family could make wine according to its own experience and skills. When the army was stationed on the island in 1949, the demand for wine increased dramatically. The government decided to ban all private breweries in order to monitor the quality of wine, and set up the Zhongxing Brewery — the present Matsu Brewery — as a government-controlled business.

The more than 40-year old brewery is famous for its Old Matsu Wine. Its products include Daqu Wine and Sorghum Wine and enjoy a high reputation. Old Matsu Wine, or actually old Fujian wine with a respected history of over 200 years, belongs to the Shaoxing wine family. Brewed from glutinous rice and a red food colouring agent, the wine is lightly yellow and dry, typical of Fuzhou wine. Ms. Hu said many tourists from Taiwan were not used to the taste, but the locals couldn't do without it for even a day. Producing Old Matsu Wine is a



1. It takes only one night going from Keelung to Matsu by taking the Tai Ma ferry (by Chu Kit)
2. This stallkeeper was married and a recent arrival from Fuzhou and her cooking is authentic (by Chu Kit)
3. The 88 Tunnel has become a cellar filled with intoxicating scents (by Chu Kit)
4. Qiaozai Village in Peikan of Matsu is closest to Fujian Province. The village is famous for its numerous temples in eastern Fujian style, the flame-like wall (by Chu Kit)





very elaborate process. As well as being fermented, pressed, and distilled, it must be preserved in a cool place for two years before being sent to market.

Talking about storage, there is a very special cellar — the 88 Tunnel. Like Kinmen, Matsu has quite a lot of tunnels dug in its granite mountains in case of war. In these peaceful times, the 88 Tunnel, like other tunnels, is no longer needed for military purposes. Yet the temperature and humidity there are quite suitable for maturing wine. So the tunnel has become a storehouse, filled with intoxicating scents. Bottles of 88-Tunnel Sorghum Wine, commonly seen in all stores at Matsu, come from there.

“Seal” Stone Houses Ward off Wind and Burglars

Niujiao Village, not far from the brewery, is widely known for its well-preserved traditional eastern Fujian-style buildings. I picked the period at dusk and wandered into the village alone.

Like many Matsu villages, Niujiao nestles deep in a bay. The houses are all built against the hills in a beautiful landscape. I walked along some stone-paved paths winding tortuously up the hills. It was quite a refreshing experience meandering among the stone houses. These traditional Matsu buildings with their striking eastern Fujian design, are so different from the southern Fujian style, commonly seen in Taiwan, of courtyards enclosed by dwellings on three or four sides. These stone houses usually stand alone, mostly two storeyed, with outer walls built from granite. I was told rich people transported good quality stones from the mainland coastal areas, but the less well off

could only choose from the local stones washed by the sea. So by looking at the building materials-their quality and cutting-one can have some idea of the owner's economic status. The stones on the outer walls are normally laid evenly or in the shape of the Chinese character for human, implying a hope for a big prosperous family. Beams and room partitions mostly used a kind of hardwood fir growing in the Fuzhou area. As Matsu is rather windy and was often plagued by pirates from the sea, roof tiles are normally covered with stones, and the windows are built rather high and small to keep out both burglars and wind. The sturdy upright houses look rather like seals and are known as “seal” stone houses.

Though Niujiao Village's stone houses are well preserved, their owners often add something new to keep up with the times. Take roofs for instance. Many of the red tiles used in the past have been replaced by sheets of black iron, so nowadays there are fewer and fewer old-style roofs covered with stones.

Village Restaurant, Cafe and Tavern

Some village residents have long realised the importance of preserving these traditional houses. A village official assembled 10 people involved in protecting cultural relics and together they successfully won financial support from the county government to renovate some of the empty typically traditional houses. These old buildings were given a new lease of life after being done up to suit a modern business. I was both surprised and happy to find the Yimodi Restaurant, Fisherman's Study and the Sea Corner Tavern.

Entering the small garden at the Yimodi Restaurant, I was instantly impressed by everything being so simple and natural. The flagstone steps, graceful plants, rustic wine jars, and the thatched outhouse all looked basic but elegant. “Yimo” in the Fuzhou dialect means grandma, a term of endearment. This private restaurant built in an age-old house offers mainly Fuzhou food, Old Matsu Wine and local snacks. The chefs are local ladies, and their cooking is tasty and typical of local family food. Dishes like fried eel pickled in wine, the soft Fuzhou fish balls, and a cold dish of appetizing sweet and sour laver, are all unforgettable.

The Fishermen’s Study is actually a cafe and pub frequented mostly by young people. The small stone house lit by soft yellow light, is filled with music both classical and modern, with bookshelves against the wall. A couple of people were talking animatedly over coffee, and someone was reading alone in a corner. I was surprised to find in this small remote island a place with such refined taste!

As for the Sea Corner Tavern, it is a two-storey private hotel standing by the shore. In the two double-bed rooms and four-bed rooms, the sheets and bedding are clean and tidy. The dark wooden dressing table and chairs, white lamp, flush toilet, and CD player in the sitting room all blend admirably to make a stay here easy and comfortable and integrate well with the old stone house’s architecture. Walking outside the tavern or even sitting by the window at night, I could get close to the sea and enjoy the starlit sky, cooled by the breeze from the sea and lulled by the whispering waves. I regretted not booking this tavern earlier, but fortunately my stay later at Qinbi Village in Beigan made up for this omission.

Qinbi Village — Matsu’s Largest Eastern Fujian Community

Beigan is the second largest island in the Matsu group and only 10 minutes by boat from Nankan. With fewer people here, the scenery is even more natural and beautiful. Qinbi Village between the Qinshan and Bishan mountains, is the largest eastern Fujian community in Matsu with almost 100 very well-preserved seal-style stone houses all neatly lined up facing the sea. Helped by the local government and experts, the villagers repaired some empty old houses, upgrading 10 of them into hotels featuring a strong traditional local flavour. It was Saturday when I visited the village, so the 10 hotels were almost full.

I got a single room on the first floor of one of them. After supper, I walked back to my small stone world. The pine bed and chair gave off a refreshing smell of the countryside. I pushed open the side door and my room filled instantly with a sea breeze. Outside the door a flat spot on the slope overlooking the sea was covered with wild flowers. Stepping into this “secret garden” at the back of the house I looked at Qinbi Village, its sparse lights scattered around me. The sound of waves splashing against the shore not far off in the darkness seemed like an age-old song.

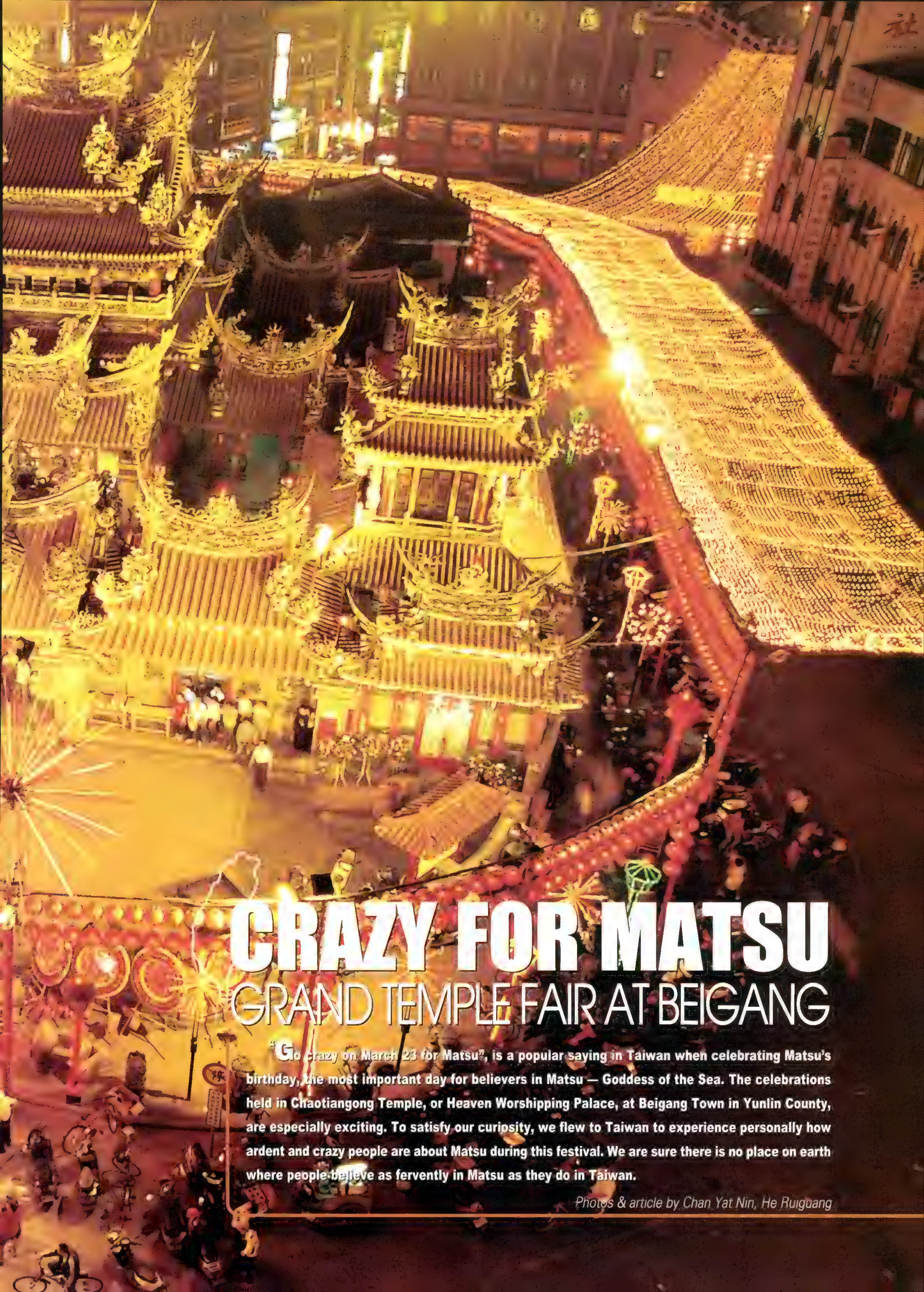
1. As Matsu is rather windy, roof tiles on traditional houses are normally weighed down with stones (by Chu Kit)
2. The private “Yimo’s Restaurant” in Niujiao village looks like a ancient hostel (by Chu Kit)
3. The Fishermen’s Study, rebuilt from an old stone house, is a cafe and bar (by Chu Kit)
4. Qinbi Village is a well-preserved eastern Fujian community in Peikan. Tourists can admire the neatly lined up seal-style stone houses and stay in them (by Chu Kit)
5. Like Kinmen, Matsu is a military base and garrisoned by troops. The Beihai Tunnel at Nankan is connected to the sea (by Chu Kit)

Old Place Names on Nankan Island

It is worth noticing the place names while visiting Nankan Island, as most places have two names — old and new — which is confusing. The old ones were generally more interesting and referred to the terrain or local customs. Take Niujiao (Ox Horn) Village for instance. People say that Matsu is shaped like a rhinoceros, with Niujiao Village right on its horn. But after the military moved in, the village was given a new and more political name, Fuxing (Revival) Village. Xiwei (Western Tail) Village in northwestern Nankan Island, on the tail of the rhinoceros, is now named Siwei (Four Virtues) Village. Jieshou Village was originally called Shanlong (Mountain Ridge) Village, because the villagers came from Suncuo Village in Changle County in Fujian. Later Sunlong was changed to Shanlong for easier pronunciation. And Ren’ai (Benevolent Love) Village was originally called Tieban (Iron Sheet) Village for its large accumulation of sedimentary rocks. Knowing the stories behind the names certainly makes visits more interesting.







CRAZY FOR MATSU

GRAND TEMPLE FAIR AT BEIGANG

Go crazy on March 23 for Matsu", is a popular saying in Taiwan when celebrating Matsu's birthday, the most important day for believers in Matsu — Goddess of the Sea. The celebrations held in Chaotiangong Temple, or Heaven Worshipping Palace, at Beigang Town in Yunlin County, are especially exciting. To satisfy our curiosity, we flew to Taiwan to experience personally how ardent and crazy people are about Matsu during this festival. We are sure there is no place on earth where people believe as fervently in Matsu as they do in Taiwan.

Photos & article by Chan Yat Nin, He Ruiguang

The deity called Matsu in Fujian and Taiwan and we refer to as the Goddess of the Sea worshipped by people in China's southeastern coastal areas. When these people went abroad, they carried their beliefs everywhere they went. It's safe to say in any Chinese community there are bound to be both believers in Matsu and a temple.

Matsu in Taiwan Came from Meizhou in Fujian

More than 1,000 years have passed since Matsu was deified as the Goddess of the Sea.

Matsu was originally called Lin Mo. She was born during the Northern Song Dynasty on March 23, 960 at Xianliang Harbour in Meizhou Bay. Extraordinarily she didn't cry when she was born, so was named Mo meaning silent. A very clever girl, she began to learn Daoism at the age of 13 and could understand all its complex profundities. Familiar with the sea and with a good understanding of celestial phenomena, she saved many lives from the sea. The kind-hearted girl also had excellent medical skills and often cured people of diseases and helped them out of danger. As a result she was called a divine girl.

In 987 during the Song Dynasty, Lin Mo, at the age of 28, climbed the Peak of Mei and never returned. The people believed she had ascended to heaven. From then on, she was only seen in flaming vermilion, flying across the sea. But wherever there was a calamity, she would come to people's rescue, earning the respectful title Matsu, literally Ancestral Mother.

Matsu, or Goddess of the Sea, was obviously one of the most esteemed deities on the sea-girt island. According to legend the earliest Matsu temple was established at Penghmagong, probably in the Yuan Dynasty. There are now more than 1,300 Matsu temples in Taiwan. Grand ceremonies are held in the temples every year around March 23 on her birthday and on September 9 when she ascended to heaven. All kinds of activities are held and her followers gather in the temples to burn incense before her shrine. Hundreds of thousands of people may come to the major Matsu temples, and teams of thousands of people parade the golden image of Matsu around the island, walking long distances day and night while being greeted by even more people. The lively and enthusiastic atmosphere of the parade, the sweaty fervour of the participants even surpass those in Matsu's hometown in Fujian.

I once joined a celebration of Matsu's birthday in that hometown — Meizhou Island at Putian, Fujian, and for the first time I personally experienced how passionately people adore the Goddess of the Sea. The most eye-catching were the pilgrim teams who came over from Taiwan, carrying Matsu's statue from their local temple to her hometown. After the sacrificial ceremony at the temple in Meizhou, they carried the statue back to Taiwan. Some came especially to seek



a Matsu statue directly from Meizhou's Matsu Temple, so that the Goddess of the Sea could protect her believers back in Taiwan.

Deeply touched by the scene, I wondered why there is such love and respect for Matsu in Meizhou. Is it because Meizhou is her hometown? Or is it due to their natural bond with the sea? Or are her followers seeking spiritual support from the goddess in their life struggle with nature and the world of man?

Possibly all of these, but one thing is beyond doubt: followers all believe the goddess from the Matsu Temple at Meizhou is the most powerful, and the statues of the goddess in their communities all came directly or indirectly from Meizhou. So going to Matsu's

Previous page: The Chaotiangong Temple in Beigang is the centre for Taiwan believers to worship Matsu. It is said that every year more than 700,000 pilgrims come here to celebrate Matsu's birthday (by Chan Yat Nin)

- 1. The 16-metre granite statue of Matsu on the top of the building behind the Chaotiangong Temple was modelled on the original one at Meizhou Island in Fujian Province (by Chan Yat Nin)**
- 2. At pilgrimage time, the statues of Matsu kept in all temples and communities and believers' homes in Taiwan are brought to Chaotiangong to ensure their efficacy (by Chan Yat Nin)**
- 3. Pilgrims are praying at the temple (by Chan Yat Nin)**



CHAIY FOR MATSU — GRAND TEMPLE FAIR AT BINGANG



hometown for her statue is the best way to ensure and increase the goddess' power.

Matsu Temple Fair Intoxicates the Whole City

People say the Matsu Temple of Chaotiangong at Peikan in Taiwan attracts the largest number of believers because wishes made before the goddess here are most likely to come true.

It was our first time in Peikan, and we found all our preconceptions of the place from what we had read, heard and guessed were not as strikingly impressive as what we actually experienced upon arrival. We had hardly got off the bus before we were almost overwhelmed by waves of roaring noise from gongs,



drums and fireworks. The streets were full of parade teams and spectators. Many parade teams were organised by the Matsu temples in various places. In the large processions, people held a range of banners including those declaring the names of cities, counties, towns, villages or organisations.

Sure enough, Chaotiangong Temple was the destination of the



stream of people. This magnificent temple is built like a palace in typical Fujian and Taiwanese style. The eave corners are turned up very high, and the palace is decorated elaborately and ostentatiously with painted sculptures. Followers hold ceremonies and give performances in the square in front of the palace before entering to pay homage to the goddess. Each team likes to take this opportunity to express its piety and respect for Matsu while displaying its special prowess. Believers go to great lengths in displaying not only spectacular costumes and makeup, but also special stunts and martial art skills.

In Taiwan, every temple holds its own Matsu celebration fair or long-distance pilgrim procession, each with different formats and time frames. The most famous in terms of length is the procession from the Zhenlangong Palace at Dajia Town in Taichung, to Peikan and Xingang, which takes eight days and seven nights for a round trip. Thousands of people join the parade, walking for more than 100 km through



Chaotiangong Temple was packed with thousands of people. The deafening sounds of firecrackers, bangers and fireworks reverberated all day long, and the streets filled with their reek and debris. Our eardrums got a little rest near noon when the streets quieted down for a while, so we took the opportunity to stroll along the road to find something to eat.

Chaotiangong Temple stands at the centre of the old downtown area in Peikan. A circular road surrounds the palace and separates it from other buildings and stores. The old streets all radiate from the Chaotiangong Temple, and Zhongshan Street that runs in front of it has become an expanded part of the temple square. This two-kilometre road is now one of the best preserved old streets in Taiwan, flanked on either side by early-style houses, mostly two or three storeys high with overhanging balconies. Walking along the street, I felt as if I had



the four counties of Taichung, Changhua, Yunlin and Chiayi. But the grandest spectacles are the fair and parade held at Peikan's Chaotiangong Temple on March 19 and 20, and the sacrificial ceremony on the 23rd.

We happened to be in Peikan on March 20 for the Matsu celebration fair. From 6 or 7 a.m. until sunset, the square in front of

- 1, 2. Sedan chair blasting was the most exciting activity at the Matsu Celebration Fair (by He Ruiguang)
3. Jumping through exploding firecrackers to prove one's loyalty to Matsu (by He Ruiguang)
4. This performer has a steel bar penetrating through his face (by He Ruiguang)
5. This old man flagellated himself and painted amulets with his own blood to show his devotion (by He Ruiguang)



gone back hundreds of years.

More than 700,000 people were reportedly in Peikan during the Matsu celebration fair, a golden opportunity for store owners. The shops selling local specialties were particularly popular. We didn't do much shopping but just dropped in for a look. I was very impressed by the simple but hospitable Beigang people.

Earth-Shattering Sedan Chair Blasts

Right after midday, the whole town of Peikan became bustling again, because sedan chair blasting would soon take place. The earth-shattering sound of an explosion drew us instantly to the street. Clouds of smoke mushroom-shaped like those from an atomic bomb rose in the distance, darkening the sky for quite a while. As people

were escaping from the scene, we squeezed to the front and saw a few big sedan chairs, each carried by eight people, enveloped in heavy smoke. Sparks from crackers were spraying wildly under the chairs, yet their carriers were completely fearless; they moved about crazily shaking the sedan chairs as if the earth itself were trembling.

Two "giants" in the parade — ferocious-looking demons twice as high as us — strode around swinging their huge hands. These were Matsu's guardians, the green-bodied "Clairvoyance" and the red-skinned "Clairaudient". Though I had seen the two guardians who are always present in a Matsu temple, I was still amazed to see them personified by real people and looking so lively.

According to legend, "Clairvoyance" and "Clairaudient" used to be monsters in the coastal areas, but Matsu subdued them and kept them by her side as guardians. Making use of the good sight of "Clairvoyance" and the sharp ears of "Clairaudient," Matsu rescued many seamen and other people and the giants proved to be her able assistants. That's why they are always represented in Matsu temples everywhere.

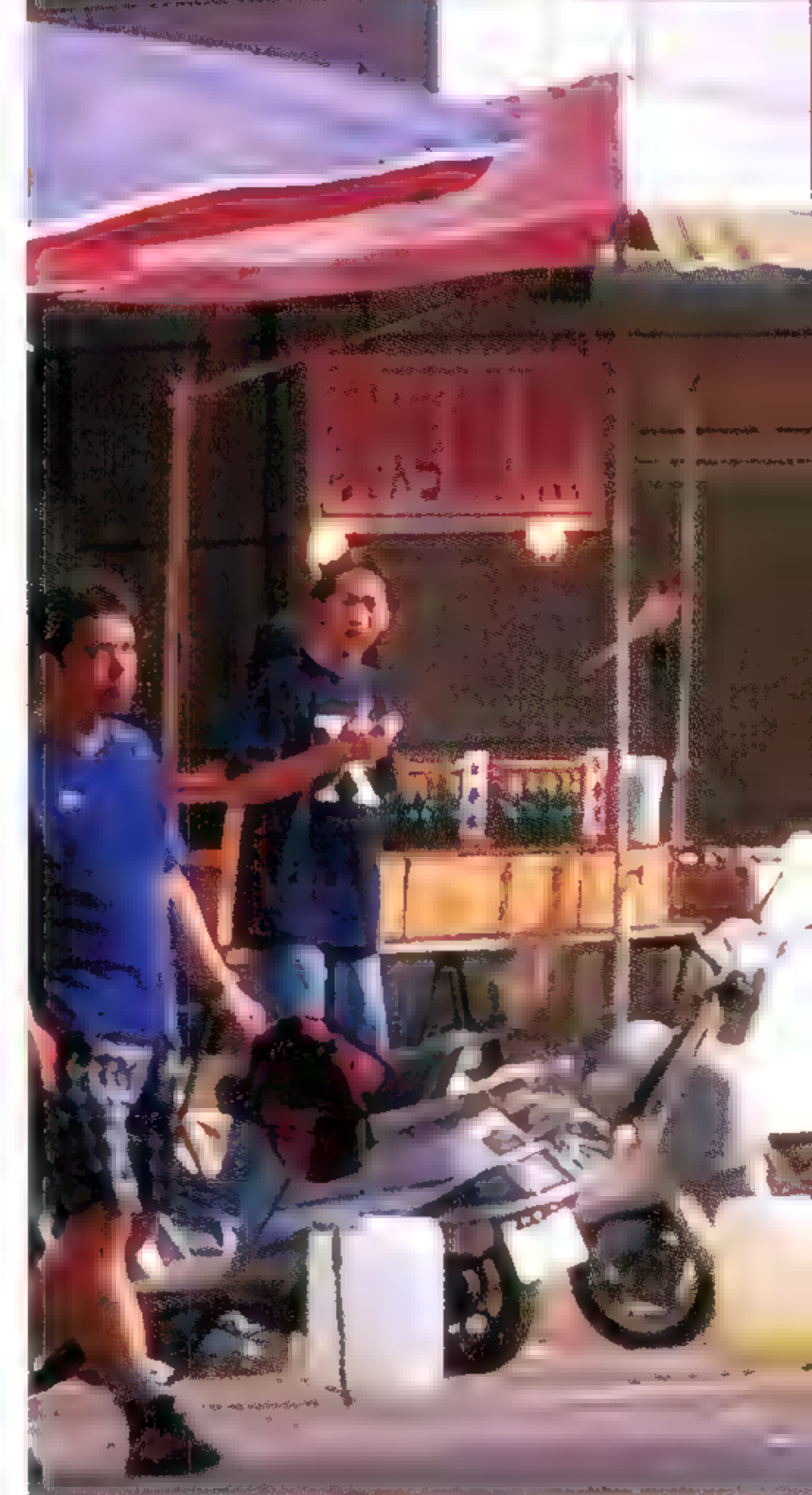
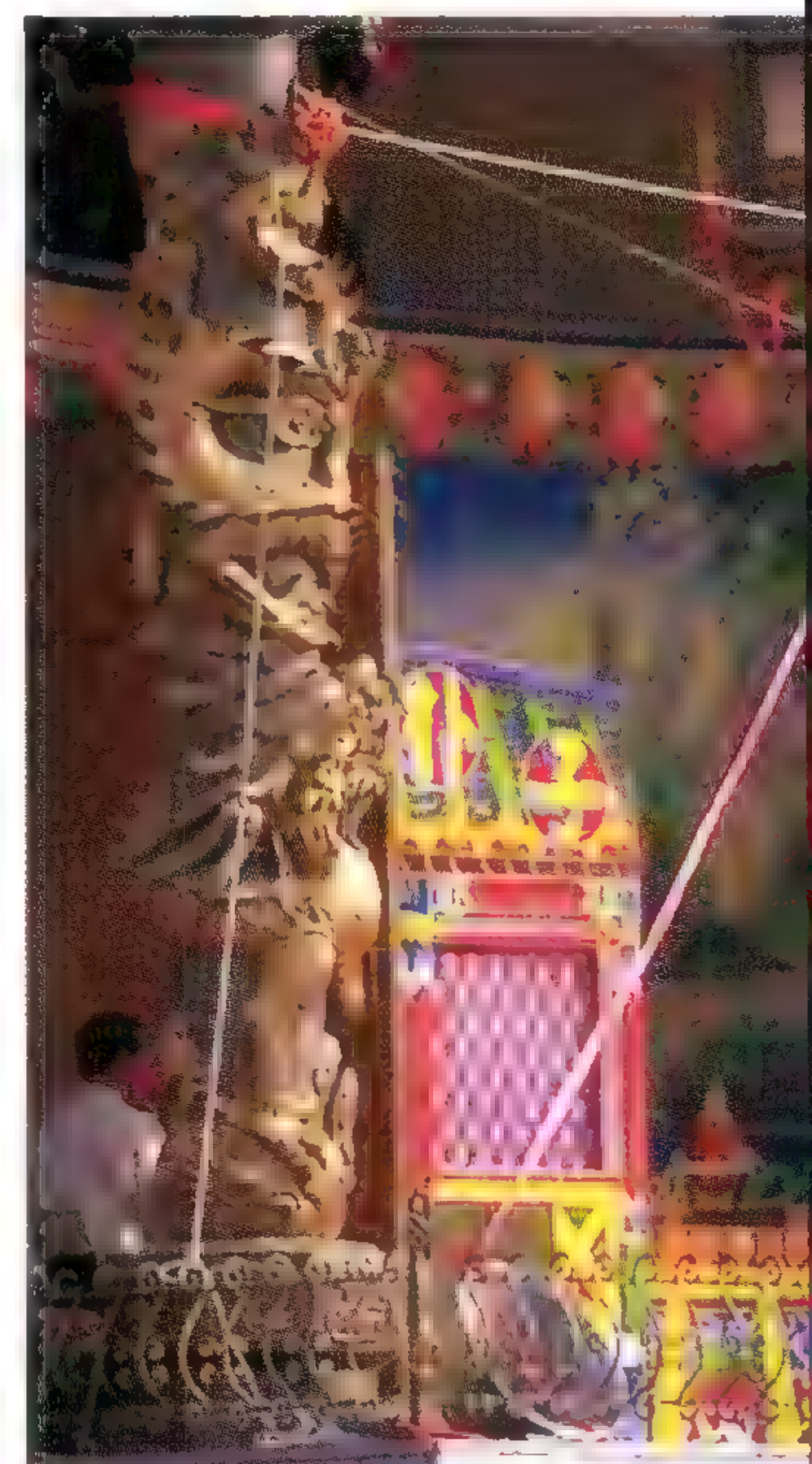
The celebrations went on till evening, with still more pilgrim teams arriving from other regions.

Chaotiangong — Famed for its Hall to Matsu's Parents

We delayed entering Chaotiangong Temple till the next day when we had cooled down somewhat from the first day's excitement.

The complex buildings are laid out in five courtyards. Word of mouth spread many stories of the power of the Matsu at Chaotiangong Temple to help her followers, making this temple one of the most prestigious in Taiwan.

Through the haze I could see the hall in the second courtyard packed with men and women worshippers. Different from those I had seen in other temples, these



followers appeared very close to Matsu as if they were talking with their mother. The Goddess of the Sea in the shrine was so gentle and graceful, like a universal loving mother figure. It is interesting to note that though Matsu was only 28 when she left the world, her image is not of a slim girl but a 40-year-old mother. Perhaps this satisfies a deeply rooted instinct for people in times of trouble to turn to a mother figure. It is ingrained in their hearts that the protective Goddess of the Sea will come to her children's aid when needed, and she has inspired in her followers a yearning for filial piety and universal love, transcending selfish desires.

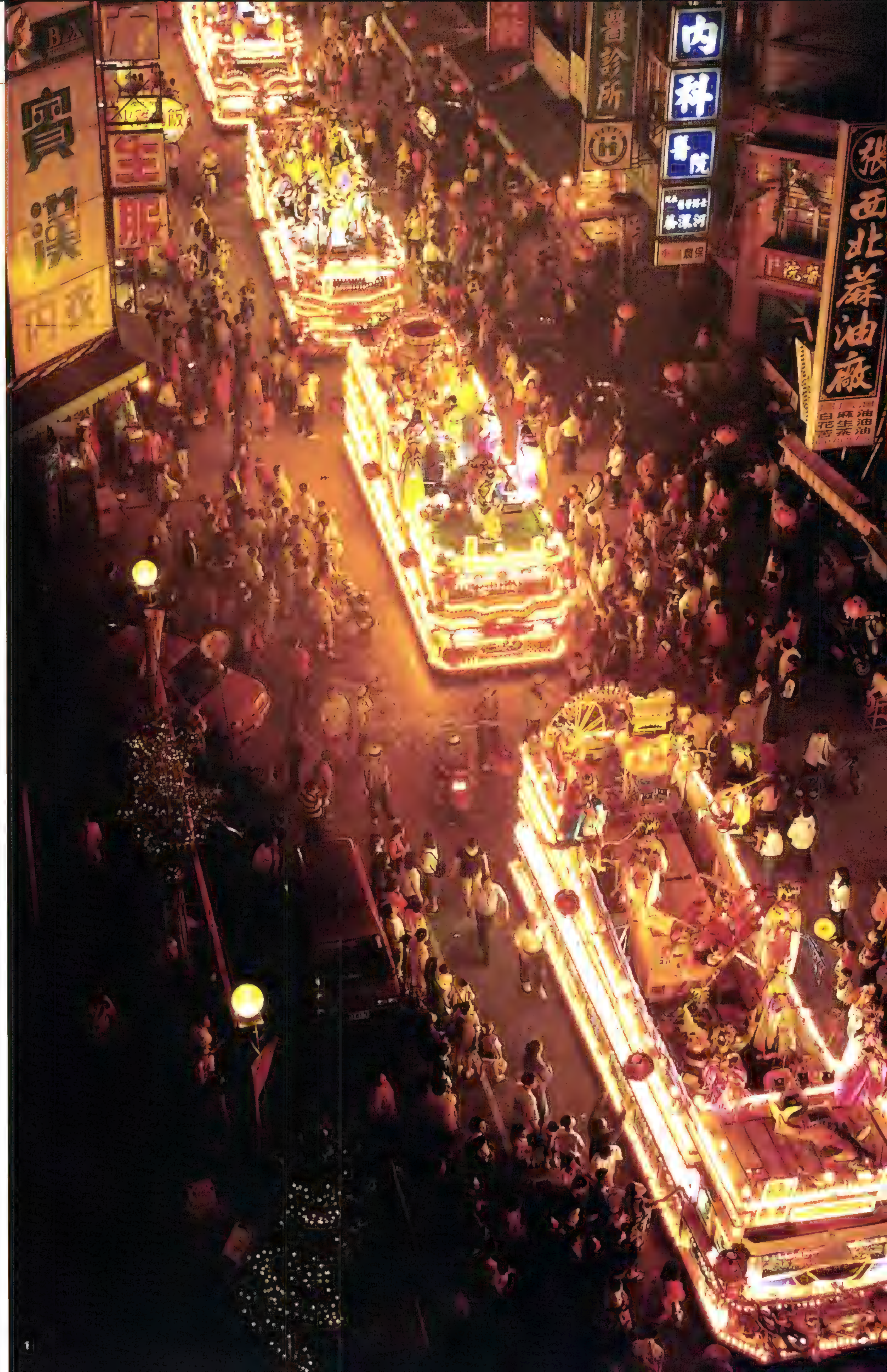
In the last courtyard a hall is dedicated to Matsu's parents. I was told this is the only hall honouring her parents in all the Matsu temples

in Taiwan, and must be one of the reasons why the Chaotiangong Temple has surpassed all the other temples. Pilgrims come from afar not only to worship her but honour her parents as well, and this is considered a better route to perfection.

There is a Matsu Cultural Garden across the circular road behind the Chaotiangong Temple. Cultural relics and folk costumes are

1. During the temple fair, some of the organisations used every means to get their message across (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. During the parade, people dressed themselves up magnificently just for amusement (by He Ruiguang)
3. "Successful Candidate Cake", one of the famous local specialties, is sold well during the Temple Fair (by Chan Yat Nin)
4. According to Matsu Temple Fair traditions, the local "Gezai Opera" must perform day and night (by Chan Yat Nin)







exhibited there in a tall building topped by a 16-metre granite statue of Matsu. With exactly the same shape and features as the image at Meizhou Island in Fujian Province, she is obviously modeled on the original one there.

Fairies and Heroes Ride Decorated Floats

A stream of pilgrims kept coming to Beigang over the following days to worship Matsu at Chaotiangong Temple, and Zhongshan Street was always crowded with people. On the afternoon of Matsu's birthday on March 23, we found Beigang people busy preparing for another big event that evening — a parade of decorated floats. The performers dress up as deities and celebrities, just like in the parade we hold at the turn of spring and summer every year on Changzhou Island in Hong Kong. But the floats at Beigang were more exquisitely decorated and much more numerous than in Hong Kong.

Actually we had seen these brightly decorated floats on the streets in the previous days, but they had less impact because they appeared separately. On Matsu's birthday when all of them paraded together, the effect was quite spectacular. At about three or four in the afternoon when the floats were being decorated, we were attracted by a group of lovely children no more than five or six years old. They wore the headgear and makeup of ancient scholars, beautiful women, ghosts and gods. It was funny to see these little "ancients and supernatural beings" sucking lollipops and dressed in modern clothes.

When the lights came on, the grand parade began with scores of

happiness and good luck. The spectacle became even more exciting when people in the crowd set off firecrackers from time to time.

Representing a district, an organisation or a company, these tall and beautifully decorated floats came not only to give enjoyment to the crowds but also to compete. Those performers who won awards were obviously elated.

As a finale, explosions from a grand fireworks display sounded in the night and the whole city was brightly lit, setting off Chaotiangong Temple even more brilliantly in the darkness.

Translated by Yu Ling

1. On 23rd March of (the lunar calendar) Matsu's birthday, a grand float parade is held in Beigang (by Chan Yat Nin)
2. These two giants, Clairvoyance and Clairaudient, are said to be Matsu's guardians (by Chan Yat Nin)
3. The kids chosen as the smart boy and beautiful girl during the parade will be the pride of their family (by He Ruiguang)



TRAVEL TIPS

Penghu

• Best travel season:

The peak season is from April to October. The accommodation rates are cheap in slack season

• To Penghu:

By Air

Route	Airlines	Price
Taipei — Magong	Uniair, TransAsia, Far East	NT\$ 1,700
Kaohsiung — Magong	Uniair, TransAsia, Far East	NT\$ 1,400
Taichung — Magong	Uniair, Mandarin	NT\$ 1,500
Chiai — Magong	Uniair	NT\$ 1,495
Tainan — Magong	Uniair	NT\$ 1,465
Kaohsiung — Qimei	Mandarin	NT\$ 1,358
Kaohsiung — Wang'an	Mandarin	NT\$ 1,385

* For more information, please refer to websites of the airlines

By Sea

Cruise	Liner	Price	Booking Tel.
Kaohsiung — Magong	Taihua	NT\$ 600~1,300	Kaohsiung: (07) 561 3866 Magong: (06) 926 4087
Budai — Magong	Star of Tomorrow	NT\$650	Budai: (05) 226859 Magong: (06) 926 0666

• **Accommodation:** There are many options of lodging in Penghu. The rates of twin-bed rooms in hostels are about NT\$ 500~1,000, and NT\$ 1,200~3,000 in hotels. A 20% off is usually available from Sunday to Thursday. At slack season from November to March, room rates will be reduced by half.

Magong

Jiuguotuan Penghu Youth Activities Centre

Twin-bed room: NT\$ 1,600 Add: 11 Jieshou Rd Tel: (06) 927 1124

Highly recommended The Centre is located at the coast, with tranquil environment, open-air tea-house, Japanese-style rooms, and friendly staffs. Most guests are DIY travellers. It also arranges tours and helps guests to prepare souvenirs. The only shortcoming is facilities inside are a bit old.

Jimei Vacation Village

Twin-bed room: NT\$ 2,500 Add: 36~1 Linhai Rd Tel: (06) 926 8588

Remarks Just located beside the ferry pier, it is convenient for the tourists who arrive from Kaohsiung and Chaiyi by ferry. The booking office selling return tickets for Taihua Cruise or Alishan Passenger Ferry is just at the ground floor of the building. There are rooms with new facilities which can view the beautiful Magong Harbour.

Baohua Hotel

Twin-bed room: NT\$ 2,500 Add: 2 Zhongzheng Rd Tel: (06) 927 4881

Remarks Conveniently situated at the crossing of the busy Zhongzheng Road, it is just close to the harbour. Rooms on higher level can browse sea view but facilities are old.

Wang'an

Name	Rate (NT\$)	Add	Tel (06)
Wang'an Vacation Village	800	9-73 Andong Village	999 1200
Yanchuang Yule Centre	1,200		999 1441

Qimei

Name	Rate (NT\$)	Add	Tel (06)
Shuntian Travel Service	400~1,200	18 Sanlin, Nangang Village	997 1024
Fupeng Travel Service	700~1,200	10 Sanlin, Nangang Village	997 1043

Jibei

Name	Rate (NT\$)	Tel (06)
Jibei Haishang Leyuan Xiaomuwu	1,000	991 1311

• Transportation on Magong Island:

1. **Public bus:** There are five routes-Baisha in Xiyu, Pengnan, Huxi, Jianshan, Guanghua, but buses are not

frequent. Travellers are not encouraged to take buses unless they have a lot of time

2. **Taxi:** Short tour within Magong City usually costs NT\$ 70, while fare of longer tour is negotiable. Fare from airport to downtown is about NT\$ 250~280; but NT\$ 200 from downtown to airport. Hiring car to tour around the island for half day (about 6 hours) costs NT\$ 1,500 or above; for one day: NT\$ 2,000~2,500.

Contact no. of Taxi Association: (06) 927 9742

3. **Hiring vehicles:** Automobile, and motorbike can be hired in Magong. Rate: NT\$ 350 for small motorbike and NT\$ 400 for large one. Small-sized automobile: NT\$ 1,300 (fares vary from models). For hiring nine-seat automobile (fare: NT\$ 1,800~2,000), travellers should have identity documents and driving license. Car company can provide drivers as well. For a nine-seat automobile going for a round-island tour, fare is NT\$ 3,500; for a half-island tour, fare is NT\$ 2,500.

• To and from nearby islands:

Air: Huaxing Airlines provide flights between Magong and Qimei. Duration: 15 mins. Price: NT\$ 701.

Sea: There are regular transport ships and nonregular private boat between all outlying islands. Ferries going from Magong to Nanhai depart at the No. 3 Pier. Price: NT\$ 650 / person; from Magong to East or



North Sea depart at Houliiao Pier in Chihkan, Paisha. Price to East Sea: NT\$ 800 / person; to North Sea: NT\$ 950. Travellers must arrive early since most ferries depart at 7 or 8 a.m..

Penghu County Public Bus & Ferry Administrations: (06) 927 0334

Penghu County Ferry & Cruise Association: (06) 927 7036

• **Transportation on the islands:** Travellers can hire motorbikes on major islands in Penghu, such as Qimei, Wang'an, Jibei, and Hujing. Travellers can go sight-seeing by taking mini-buses or small vans driven by the locals in Hujing or Jibei.

Official tourism website of Penghu: <http://penghu.phhg.gov.tw/tourism/>

Kinmen

• **Best travel season:** Annual average temperature in Kinmen is 21.3°C, with the highest 28.2°C in August and lowest 14.1°C in January. Spring is foggy especially in April, which flights are always affected. Rainfall in summer accounts for 80% of the annual rainfall. In autumn when climate is cooler, it is suitable to watch birds.

• To Kinmen

Dep.	Airlines	Price
Taipei	Uniair, TransAsia, Far East	NT\$ 1,920
Kaohsiung	Uniair, TransAsia, Far East	NT\$ 1,820
Taichung	Uniair	NT\$ 1,850
Tainan	Uniair	NT\$ 1,855
Chiai	Uniair	NT\$ 1,850

* (For more information, please refer to websites of the airlines)

● Accommodation

The three towns (Jincheng, Jinhu, Jinsha) and two townships (Jinning, Lieyu) in Kinmen provide hotels and hostels. Jincheng Town provides the most hotels which are easily found.

Hotel	Add	Tel (82)	Twin-bed room (NT\$)
Wujiang Hotel	100 3rd-Sect., Xihai Rd, Jincheng	Town322 2211	3,200
Jinbaolai Hotel	90 Xiabuxia, Jinning	Township320048	3,200
Jinrui Hotel	166 Minquan Rd, Jincheng	Town323777	1,680~1,890
Tiancheng	Hotel16 Minsheng Rd, Jincheng	Town324851~8	1,600
Jindai Hotel	107 Minquan Rd, Jincheng	Town323366	1,000~1,200

● Transportation

1. **Public bus:** Buses depart from Jincheng, Shanwai, Shamei, and Lieyu but there are very few buses each day.

2. **Taxi:** Taking a taxi is the only choice for travellers who have limited time and no knowledge in driving. Flag-down price of local taxi is NT\$ 70. The cost of hiring a taxi is NT\$ 2,500 per day. After 7 p.m., it gets difficult to find taxi on the roads.

3. **Hiring car:** There are many car-renting houses in Kinmen. Travellers can drive freely by following the map.

Sande Automobile Car-renting House

Tel: (823) 30952

Shanghao Automobile Car-renting House

Tel: (823) 34082

China Automobile Car-renting House

Tel: (823) 30909

4. **To Lieyu Township (Lesser Kinmen):** There are passenger ferries going from the "Shuitou Ferry" in Jincheng Town to "Jiugong Pier" in Lieyu Township.

Duration: 15 minutes

Ticket: NT\$48 /

person. Service time:

06:30~21:00, one

ferry every hour.

● Special local product:

Mianxian(Noodles): Mianxian of Kinmen is famous for its thinness and smoothness. The Ma Family's mianxian which has passed on for three generations is the most famous. In its specific stores, tourists can savour as well as watch the making of the mianxian

Add: No. 3, 228-1st Section of Boyu Rd, Jincheng Town Tel: (82) 323228

Gongtang (candy): Made by peanuts and sugar, the candy is sweet but not greasy. The "Shengzu Gongtang" is the largest brand which has created more than 10 brand-new tastes for the candy. Among them, "Zhuijiao Gongtang" (pig's foot shape) and "Zhuye Gongtang" (bamboo leave flavour) are most popular

Add: 88 Zhongxing Rd, Jincheng Town Tel: (82) 326997

"Yitiaogen": A kind of protophyte in Kinmen. Legend said that when general Zheng Chenggong stationed his army in Kinmen in the Ming Dynasty, his army used the plant to keep themselves healthy. Since then, some people has made healthy tea, ointment, and medicine cloth from "yitiaogen". Among them, Housha Wuji is the best

Add: No. 1, 3 Housha Village, Jinning Township Tel: (82) 323149

Kinmen shell knives: Jinheli and Jinyongli are two famous manufacturers making knives with artillery shell in Jinmen. Both of them have several stores. Travellers can watch the making of the knives at the mother factory of Jinheli

Add: 50~54 1st Section of Boyu Rd, Jincheng Town Tel: (82) 326789

● **Official tourism website of Kinmen:** <http://tour.kinmen.gov.tw/index.asp>

Matsu

● **Best travel season:** It is foggy in Matsu from March to May. The rainfall seasons are between March and September. Lowest temperature is 9.3°C in January and average temperature in August is 27.1°C. The best travel season is in October

● To Matsu:

Air: The Uniair Airlines provides several daily flights between Songshan Airport in Taipei and Peikan Airport in Matsu. Duration: 50 minutes. Single ticket: NT\$ 1,850

Sea: There is only one ferry at the Keelung West 2 Passenger Pier (about 5 minutes' walk from Keelung Railway Station). **Departure time:** 21:10. Arrive Matsu on the next morning. Sleepers price: NT\$ 600~1,200. Booking: (02) 2422 8267.

* Travellers can also check relevant information from the Matsu News on the Internet: <http://www.matsu-news.gov.tw/>

● Accommodation:

Name	Add	Tel (836)	Rate (NT\$)
Yesu Haijiao Traditional Hostel	Fuxing Village, Nankan	26125	1,000
Riguang Haian	6 Ren'ai Village, Nankan	26666-9	
Qinbi Traditional Hostel	Qinbi Village, Peikan	55456	1,000

● **Ferries between Nankan and Peikan:** There are speed boats between Nankan and Peikan. Departure time of first ferry from Fuao Harbour in Nankan to Paisha Harbour in Peikan is 06:50. The last boat from Peikan to Nankan is 17:30. Price: NT\$ 140/ person. Enquiries: Nankan (836) 25151, Peikan (836) 55388

Official tourism website of Matsu: <http://www.matsu-nsa.gov.tw/>

● Notes:

1. Travellers have to bring along identity documents when passing the customhouse at Kinmen or Matsu.
2. When shooting in Kinmen or Matsu, never put your camera lens to the military camp, pass, or observation centre where there are stationed soldiers, especially Mashan Observation Station and Mt Taiwu in Kinmen.
3. Things made in Mainland China you bought in Kinmen or Matsu cannot be brought back to Taiwan, or they may be confiscated on boarding the flight.

The Birthday of Matsu in Chaotiangong Palace in Beigang

Located in Beigang Town southernmost of Yunlin County, Taiwan Province, Chaotiangong Palace is the chief temple of all 1,300 Matsu temples in Taiwan. With constant renovation by Matsu pilgrims for nearly 300 years, the palace has become the most brilliant and spectacular one in Taiwan

The incense burning period starts from the first month to the 23rd day of the 3rd month of the lunar year. It is said there are 700,000-plus pilgrims flooding to Beigang during that period. The peak times appear at the Lantern Festival (15th day of 1st lunar month and the birthday of Matsu, in which temple fairs and custom performances are held everywhere. Various dazzling bazaars are opened in Beigang Town, selling special products and delicious snacks.

The Welcoming Goddess Festival and worship ceremonies are held at different times in different Matsu temples. These activities are held on the 19th and 20th days of the 3rd month of the lunar year in Chaotiangong Palace. On the 23rd day, there will be floral float parade and setting off the fireworks.

Tel. of Chaotiangong Palace: (05) 783 2055

● Transport:

1. Take a bus which goes to Beigang Town from the Bus Terminus on Minquan Road West in Taipei. At peak hours: The bus goes every 30~40 mins; non-busy hours: one bus every hour. Fare: NT\$ 330. Enquiry: (02) 2596 5264
2. Take a train at the Taipei Railway Station or Kaohsiung Railway Station to Chiayi City (several times a day). Then, take a bus from Chiayi and get off at Beigang Stop. The palace can be reached by walking along Zhongshan Road. Travellers can also visit Fengtiangong Palace in Xingang, which is 10 minutes away by bus

● Accommodation:

There are many small hostels in Beigang, which are not magnificent but comfortable. Even during festivals, they will not be fully booked since most pilgrims will leave on the same day. Guestrooms with better facilities usually cost NT\$ 1,000 per day.

Writer's suggestion: Futai Grand Hostel Add: 63 Yimin Rd Tel: (05) 782 3911

● Tips:

Though the locals are kind and hospitably to outsiders, travellers still have to be cautious during crowded festival periods. Beside, be careful about the burning of firecrackers or fireworks since there is no limitation

SAFARI

THE SURVIVAL OF MANCHURIAN TIGERS

Photos by Wang Jing
Article by Wang Jing and Si Li



2

No Tolerance of Rivals on the Same Mountain

Originally Manchurian tigers roamed the forests of North China. They live deep in mountains clad mainly in primeval hardwood forests or mixed hardwood-coniferous forests, Manchurian tigers are particularly large. Adult males can reach 3~4 metres long, weighing around 350 kg. Tigresses are only 2~2.5 metres in length, but still much longer than male South China tigers. Manchurian tigers are by nature solitary and territorial. In the vast wild lands of northeast China, each tiger occupies an enormous domain. The active range of a tiger is usually 500~1,000 sq km; some of them even compete for more than 4,000 sq km. Within their own territories, they tolerate no other tiger. When patrolling their lands in the wild mountains, they hold up their tails and spray urine or pungent secretions on to tree trunks or brushwood, or scratch the trunks with their sharp claws to leave a mark. In this way, they identify their own territories.

Despite their inviolable domains, they seldom have regular lairs. They usually wander around unconcernedly within their territories. Dawn and dusk are their ideal hunting times. Manchurian tigers are sensitive to hot weather. So at midday in summer they always lie sluggishly in the shade of trees, puffing and panting. But in freezing winter, a Manchurian tiger often dashes about in the snow, scattering the snow with all four swiftly moving paws and creating a spectacular scene.

From November to March each year the tigresses come on heat for about a week and mate with the males. The male Manchurian tigers copulate frequently during that period, about 20~30 times. During the mating season a tiger overlooks its principle of allowing no other tiger on its territory. A male tiger

As the fiercest creatures in the world, tigers have always been impressive. When they snarl, the very forests and mountains tremble. So it's hard to believe that despite their commanding presence they are on the verge of extinction thanks to man's cruel and thoughtless depredations.

Asia once had eight varieties of tigers. Now only five survive, including four found in China, namely the South China tiger, Bengal tiger, Southeast Asian tiger and Manchurian tiger (also known as Siberian tiger). Due to excessive felling of forests, too much reclamation and uncontrolled hunting, their habitats are becoming smaller and smaller, and the "king of the forest" seems doomed to face a desperate situation.

repeatedly lets out long roars to signal to tigresses nearby, the calls penetrating through the forests. Then some eager tigresses will cross into the forbidden terrain. After mating the male and the female return to their own territories.

Gestation lasts about 105 days, and the cubs are born from April to June each year. A female can produce from one to six cubs in a litter. The newly born cubs are very small, only about 1.5 kg and about 30~40 cm in length. Young tigers grow surprisingly fast. In just 100 days they will weigh 12 kg; by one year old, their weight can reach 100 kg.

Extinction due to Deforestation

These days accounts of Manchurian tigers in the wild are mostly only available from records. Before the 1950s, their traces could be found throughout the Mountains of Northeast China as well as the Korean Peninsula and Siberia.

1. The Manchurian tiger is known as "the king of the forest"
2. Sheds in the safari park now shelters the tigers
3. Manchurian tigers originate from the mountains of Northeast China, so are adapted to freezing winters (by Chan Yat Nin)



3

Since 1967, these tigers have vanished from the Greater Hinggan Mountains; in the early years of the 1980s, they disappeared from the Lesser Hinggan Mountains and the Korean Peninsula; and by the 1990s there were no signs of them left in the Changbai Mountains. Nowadays only in the Far East of Russia are traces of wild Manchurian tigers occasionally found.

Tigers rely on forests. Deeper mountains and denser forests offer them better protection. When the mountains lose their vegetation and the forests no longer exist, tigers have nowhere to hide. The large-scale destruction of forests goes back a long way in China. Once the primeval forests in the northern, northeastern and northwestern parts of the country were felled, the Manchurian tigers no longer had any hiding places.

Early in the 20th century, Tzarist Russia felled the forests in Northeast China to build the Far Eastern Railway. After a war against Russia, the Japanese also began to plunder those forests. People in modern times often hunted Manchurian tigers. For all these reasons, their numbers have rapidly declined.

Manchurian tigers are hunted because their striped fur is beautiful. Traditional Chinese medicine threatens them even more with

its belief that tiger bones strengthen human tendons and bones, kill pain and fever, and calm the hyper-nervous. Even such parts of the tiger as its whiskers, meat, blood, eyes, gallbladder, stomach and penis are considered precious remedies with magic effects.

Dog Foster Mother of Tiger Cubs

With the help of China's State Ministry of Forestry and the State Export and Import Office of Threatened Species, the Breeding Centre for Felines was established at Hengdaohezi in Hailin City, Heilongjiang Province in 1986. It was the first base of its kind and later, in 1996, the Manchurian Tiger Forest Park was launched in Taiyangdao (Sun Island) at Harbin City, in Heilongjiang Province.

At first there were only eight Manchurian tigers, transferred from zoos throughout the country. They had been caged for years without reproducing and experts racked their brains over how to make them breed successfully. Fifteen years later, there are more than 200 Manchurian tigers roaming in this safari park. However those females raised in captivity have lost not only their savagery but also their maternal instincts. Recently a tigress abandoned her five newborn





cubs immediately after giving birth. Staff found a female dog that had just had puppies. The cubs jostled to suckle. The dog was very unwilling however as it knew from their smell the cubs were not its puppies. So the staff had to cover the dog's eyes and mix both cubs and puppies together. This way the dog was deceived and had to suckle them all. After repeated attempts, the dog finally accepted the tiger cubs.

Physical Weakness due to Inbreeding

During the last 15 years, a lot of money has been spent and great efforts expended to make the safari park more similar to nature, to create ideal living conditions for the Manchurian tigers. But an artificial habitat is inevitably inferior to the natural one. In this park their space is strictly limited. Moreover, although Manchurian tigers have avoided extinction thanks to the staff's meticulous care, some new problems have arisen. Inbreeding is one example. While it is true that the Manchurian tigers in this park now number more than 200, they are all the offspring of the original eight tigers from 15 years ago. The lack of new genes has become obvious in recent years. Some tiger cubs are more like dogs than tigers, with their fur grey and lustreless and their striped coats in a mess. Moreover they are physically weak and stunted, grow very slowly, and have a low survival rate. These tiger cubs have to be raised in cages because of a kind of hypophrenosis and even then are they are lucky to survive a year. They are too soft in the head to catch a moving hen.

To overcome the inbreeding problem, the park authority has recently imported four tiger cubs from Germany.

As well as staple foods such as fresh beef, mutton and chicken, the Manchurian tigers in the park are also fed with eggs, milk and



2

various mineral feeds and trace elements. A tiger artificially raised lives longer than one surviving in the wild. But a tiger's appetite is hearty, and a single animal can eat more than 30 kg of meat at one sitting. So the park authority has to conduct rationing in daily management, feeding each tiger 6~8 kg of fresh meat a day. A single tiger costs over 40,000 yuan a year, and now there are 210 tigers in the park. That puts the annual expense for tiger food at over 8.4 million yuan, plus such expenditure as the salaries of over 250 staff members, maintenance of park facilities, and veterinary costs. The annual entrance revenues are less than eight million and the park has been unable to make ends meet for a long time. The tigers, however, continue to propagate.

1. Raised in captivity, the tigers have lost not only their savagery but also their maternal instincts. When a tigress abandoned her newly born cubs, a dog suckling pups had to take on the role of foster mother (by Liu Dan)
2. The short mating period is crucial to breeding Manchurian tigers
3. In the safari park, vehicles are used to feed tigers with meat
4. Regular racing training maintains the tigers' agility



3



4



Tigers Forced to Make Money

As one solution to the budgetary shortfall, the park authority rents out some tigers, sending them to zoos in Qinhuangdao, Shenyang and Dalian. Some people have suggested they be released into deep mountains if the park cannot afford to keep them. The reality is the tigers would find no hiding places due to the excessive felling of the forests in so many areas. And they would have no food since wild boars, deer, antelope, hares and so on are also on the edge of extinction due to hunting by human beings. The tigers would probably starve to death if they were released. These pet-like tigers have also been living a comfortable life for a long time, almost losing all their natural instincts. The experts have to regularly train them by throwing live oxen, sheep, pigs and hens into the park, which raises costs. Ironically the tigers are often chased around by the oxen.

However the work put in over recent years to close off hillsides to facilitate reforestation and protect animals is starting to pay off. Last year some forestry workers in the Lesser Hinggan Mountains reported they saw wild deer and boars deep in the mountains for the first time in years. In 2001, news came from the Huangnihe Forestry Centre in Jilin Province of cattle eaten by a tiger from the mountains; and also in 2001, a tiger killed a poacher in the forestry area of the Dongfanghong Forestry Bureau of Heilongjiang Province.

Is the wild Manchurian tiger at last making a comeback? 

Translated by Huang Deyuan

1, 2. To preserve the hunting instinct of the tigers, the park sometimes provides them with live animals as prey



Places to See Manchurian Tigers

Harbin Forest Park for Manchurian Tigers

Brief Introduction: Established in 1996, this is the largest safari park for Manchurian tigers in the world, with about 360,000 square metres developed for raising and training tigers. The park has 30 imposing tigers, and visitors can rove in tourist vehicles among the tigers.

Address : 88, Songjiang New District, Harbin, Heilongjiang Province (across a river to the Sun Island).

Admission : 50 yuan

Transport : Bus No.88 from Harbin

Changchun Animal Park

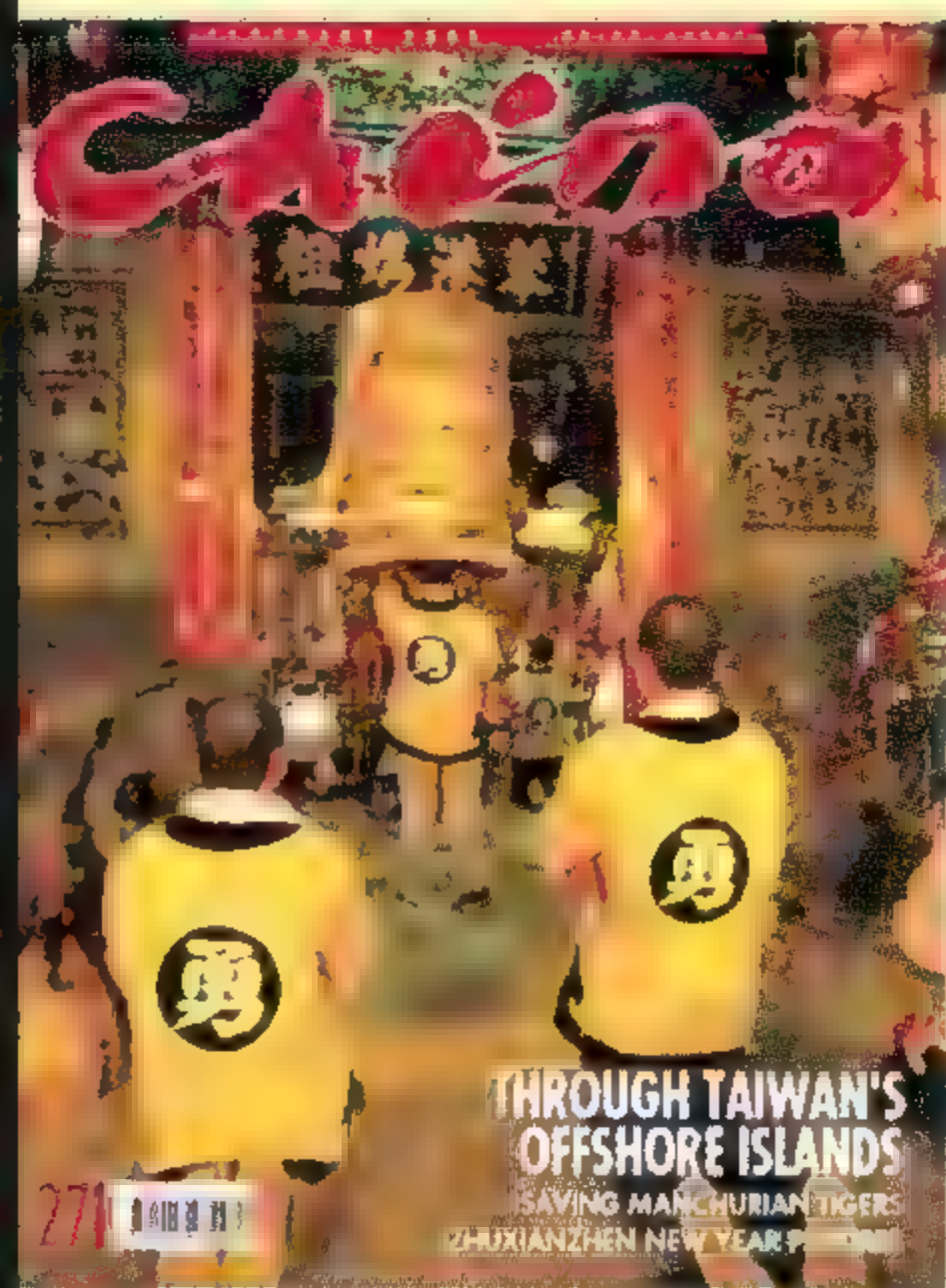
Brief Introduction : Established in 1987 and covers an area of 74 hectares. Visitors can enjoy Manchurian tigers and red-crowned crane, lynx as well.

Address : 3 km southeast of People's Square of Changchun.

Admission : 10 yuan

Transport : Bus No.25 or taxi from Changchun





Readership Survey

China Tourism always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of *China Tourism*.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Through Taiwan's Offshore Islands	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Survival of Manchurian Tigers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Romance and Reality of Rall	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
New Year Woodcut Art from Zhuxianzhen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Old Wells in Jianshui	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Others: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Photographs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cover	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Articles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tips for the Traveller	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Art Design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other Opinions: _____					

Name: (Mr/Ms/Mrs) _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Age: _____ Occupation: _____ Number of trips to China in the last 5 years: _____

Where (how) did you first see *China Tourism*?

☐ Subscription ☐ Newsstand or bookstore

☐ Hotel Name: _____ ☐ Others _____

Main purpose for reading *China Tourism*?

☐ Planning trips ☐ General interest in China's customs, scenery, etc. ☐ Business

☐ Tourist Trade purposes ☐ Others _____

What do you like most about *China Tourism*?

Are you happy with the factual content of *China Tourism*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What are your suggestions for improvement?

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve *China Tourism* magazine for you.

*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.

The Romance and Reality of Rail

FROM BY WING FUKUNAGA MARCH 14, 1994

China's rail network stretches over 60,000 km across the country. That sounds a lot but actually represents only the length of a cigarette of rail line per capita in China. The Chinese railways used to have a very hard time coping when the annual passenger traffic reached more than one billion people, and it was especially difficult for the Chinese people to buy train tickets during the Spring Festival and national holidays. Nowadays many expressways link major cities and more and more air flights are operating, so people have greater choice. But railway equipment has also been greatly improved and train speeds accelerated and the railways are still the main means of transport for the majority of Chinese, for they consider it safe, cheap and comfortable. A crowded railway carriage is just like a small moving community, a microcosm of society. The photographs here reflect various aspects of life on a train.





A crowded railway station. It is a common scene during the seven-day May Day or National Day holidays or around the Spring Festival every year. Ordinary workers had to take hard seats. With their low incomes, they couldn't afford sleeping berths or plane travel. (Harbin Railway Station, 1994)

Photography tips : To fully catch a crowded platform, one should pick a high spot facing the train door or windows. If one stands on the platform bridge and takes photos with an exposure of below one-tenth of a second, the stream of passengers will become unreal and very dynamic.



During long journeys, people ate when they were hungry, and when sleepy stretched out and fell asleep in all kinds of poses. If you took pictures when they were sleeping, you didn't need to worry whether they were happy about it or not. (Harbin — Shanghai, 1960)

During long trips, people ate when they were hungry, and when sleepy stretched out and fell asleep in all kinds of poses. If you took pictures when they were sleeping, you didn't need to worry whether they were happy about it or not. (Harbin — Shanghai, 1960)

You can find some interesting sights on trains, especially in the sleeper carriages. Some created harmony, some not so. But they all produced vivid and interesting pictures. (Shanghai — Guangzhou, 1991)

You can find some interesting sights on trains, especially in the sleeper carriages. Some created harmony, some not so. But they all produced vivid and interesting pictures. (Shanghai — Guangzhou, 1991)





During the pot a thermos flask of hot water was a privilege enjoyed by the passengers who took sippers. Those from the hard seat carriage did not wait from the train attendant who delivered water to their seats in a kettle. At Michael's table with a boy from the end of the carriage. The Chinese would drink tea and were not used to cold drinks.
 (Nathan - Shanghai, 1951)

Photograph by Nathan. The last of the last carriage of the train. The last of the last carriage of the train.

The 1950s Chinese are not a people who do not make good use of what space there was. For instance, the old young boy lying on a bench.
 (Nathan - Shanghai, 1951)

Photograph by Nathan. The last of the last carriage of the train. The last of the last carriage of the train.





Even they will be arriving at their destination so it was time to fix the make up and tidy their clothes before meeting the friends and relatives at the station. (Dunqithou — Dunqida, 196)

Photograph by: Wang Cheng (journalist) (see right) (see also W. 196, 200, 201, 212, 216, 217)

Playing Mahjong on a train in all time was the favourite of Chinese people. Passengers would to prepare themselves before and to play the game in such a narrow and crowded space. The players who concentrated on the game would find a 1,000 km journey pass as quickly as on going to the countryside. (Beijing — Shanghai, 1934)

Photograph by: Wang Cheng (journalist) (see right) (see also W. 196, 200, 201, 212, 216, 217)





A game of Go was a good way to while away time during a long journey. The two players here were so absorbed in their game they had pushed the passenger by the window into an uncomfortable position. Harbin — Shengkuo, 1949.

Photograph by the Chinese People's Photography Society. The photo is a reproduction of the original. The photo is a reproduction of the original. The photo is a reproduction of the original.



Doing morning exercises on trains from Harbin to Beijing. These passengers' routine routine they were being photographed. The passengers came there days and nights on this train and even those in summer carriage found such a long journey a lot of endurance. (Beijing — Urumqi, 1955)

Photograph by the Chinese People's Photography Society. The photo is a reproduction of the original. The photo is a reproduction of the original.



When the train stopped at a small railway station local people closed up to sell local products to the passengers. They were a minority minority and had unusual customs, making for interesting stories. (Xi'an — Xining, 1955)

Photograph by the Chinese People's Photography Society. The photo is a reproduction of the original. The photo is a reproduction of the original.

CULTURE



TIME-HONOURED

photos & article by Wang Lili

NEW YEAR WOODCUT ART FROM ZHUXIANZHEN



TIME-HONOURED

NEW YEAR WOODCUT ART
FROM ZHUXIANZHEN



Legend has it that Li Shiming, or Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty, was often woken at night by the crying of devils and ghosts. The many sleepless nights made him sick. His worried officials suggested warriors be sent to guard the palace gate at night to drive demons and ghosts away. Emperor Taizong ordered Qin Shubao and Yuchi Jingde, his

The town is 23 km north of Kaifeng City in Henan Province. In the Yuan Dynasty (1271—1368), the Jialu River was developed as a navigable route and goods were shipped to Zhuxianzhen via the Grand Canal and the Jialu River and then taken overland to Kaifeng. From then on, Zhuxianzhen thrived and prospered, becoming an important trading port for the Central Plains of China. In the Ming and Qing Dynasties, many merchants from all over the country settled in Zhuxianzhen, and the town reached its zenith as one of China's four most famous towns along with Foshan in Guangdong, Jingdezhen in Jiangxi and Wuhan in Hubei.

Wardling off Tang Emperor's Devils

The production of New Year woodcuts at Zhuxianzhen can be traced back to the Tang Dynasty (618—907). Legend has it that Li Shiming, or Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty, was often woken at night by the crying of devils and ghosts. The many sleepless nights made him sick. His worried officials suggested warriors be sent to guard the palace gate at night to drive demons and ghosts away. Emperor Taizong ordered Qin Shubao and Yuchi Jingde, his

1. The New Year woodcuts feature bold and unsophisticated designs and a full composition
2. These folk artisans are creators of beautiful New Year pictures
3. The Zhuxianzhen Woodcut New Year Picture Press was founded in 1984 in the Lord Guan Temple



two powerful generals, to put on suits of armour and defend the palace throughout the night. After a few days, the emperor recovered from his illness. He was overjoyed, but feared it was not a permanent solution. So he asked a painter to make portraits of the two generals and post them on the front gate, and they became known as the "door gods." Since then, the "door god" has become a main theme of New Year woodblock pictures. During the Northern Song Dynasty, the production of these works flourished in Zhuxianzhen. However at the end of the dynasty, the Jin forces captured Kaifeng. A large number of artists of New Year pictures left their roots and wandered destitute far away from home, and the woodcut workshops moved from Kaifeng to Zhuxianzhen. From the mid Ming Dynasty to the Qianlong reign of the Qing Dynasty, Zhuxianzhen's production of New Year woodcuts reached its height, with more than 300 workshops. At the end of the Qing Dynasty, the Yellow River overflowed its banks inundating Zhuxianzhen, and its output declined.

In 1986 the Zhuxianzhen Woodcut New Year Picture Press was founded. Then workshops making this art sprang up one after



another in the town until they numbered about 100. Their products enjoy equal popularity with those from Yangliuqing in Tianjin, Yangjiabu at Weifang in Shandong Province, and Taohuawu in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province.

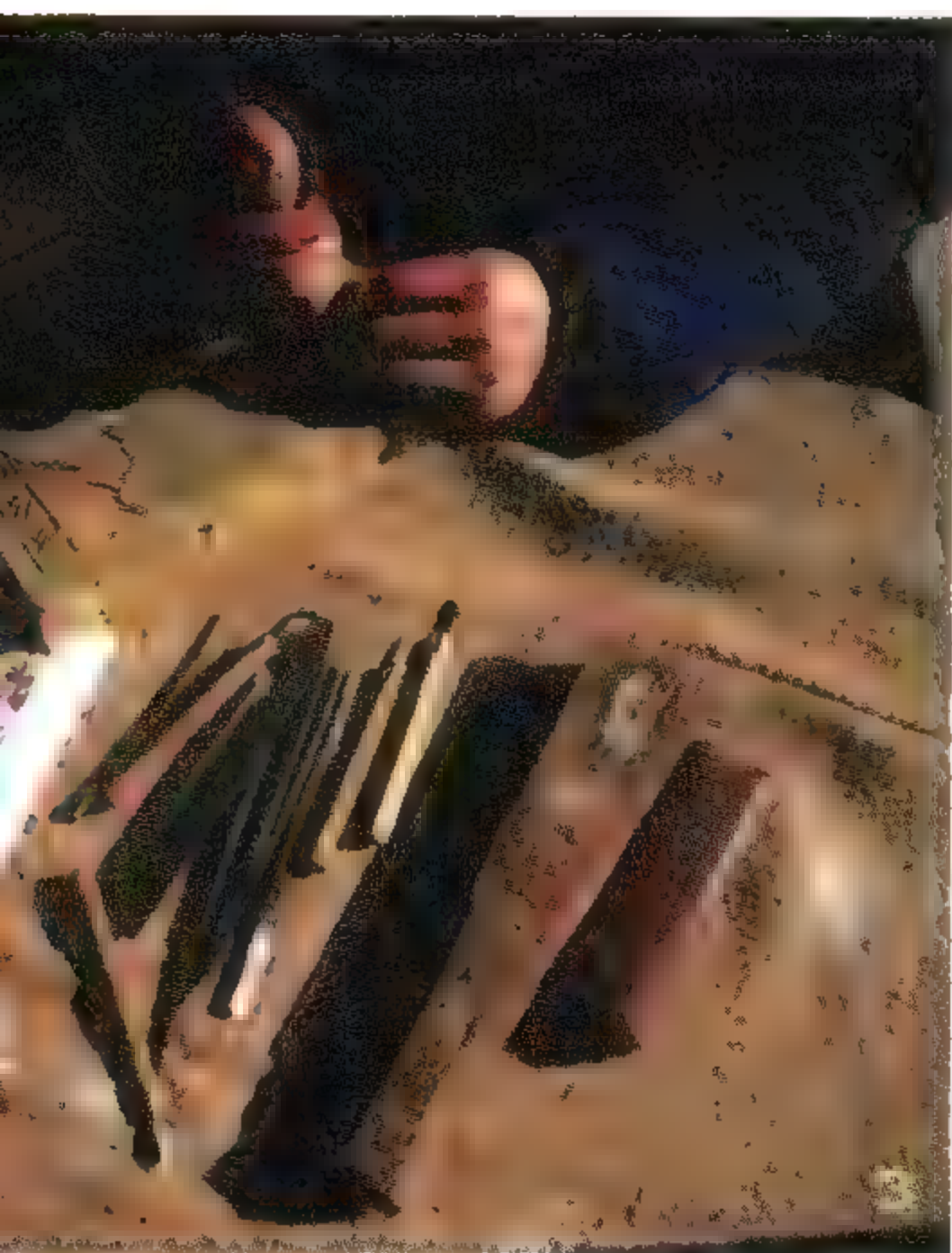
Zhuxianzhen produces a wide variety of these pictures, with themes drawn mainly from historical operas, romances and novels, fairytales and folk legends. At the end of the year, people buy the New Year pictures and post them on their doors, kitchens, carts, cowsheds and granaries to pray for a bumper harvest and a safe life, to ward off evil spirits and disasters in the coming year, and create a happy New Year atmosphere.



Chinese Herbs for Making Pigments

Yao Jingtang, the first director of the Zhuxianzhen Woodcut New Year Picture Press, said when compared with those produced elsewhere, the New Year pictures printed in Zhuxianzhen have the following characteristics: (1) Complicated techniques: The Zhuxianzhen workshops make pictures by using both blocks of wood and hollowed out blocks, as well as watercolour block printing. The block is usually one inch thick, but may be thicker depending on the size of a picture. The block is engraved symmetrically. The paper used for printing New Year pictures is mainly locally produced. (2) Beautiful colours: Using the primary colours of blue, yellow and red, woodcuts are printed with a maximum of nine colours. The pigments are prepared using traditional techniques, with Chinese medicinal ingredients as raw materials. For instance, red pigment is made by boiling sappan wood. To get black pigment, mix pine soot with water, let it ferment, and then grind the fermented soot with a stone mill. Yellow pigment is prepared with sophora buds, which are mixed with alum and boiled in a pot. Green pigment is taken from pig copper; and blue pigment is distilled from sunflower seeds. The New Year pictures printed using local methods have bright colours that do not fade despite being buffeted by wind and rain. (3) Exaggerated images: The New Year pictures, which mainly display ancient heroes, are exaggerated, simple, unadorned and vigorous. (4) Bold and unsophisticated lines: The patterns feature bold and unconstrained lines, thick and thin lines forming a sharp contrast, displaying high skill in the use of an engraving knife. (5) Full

1. Yao Jingtang, an old man of 71, is the first director of the Zhuxianzhen Woodcut New Year Picture Press
2. Inside a New Year woodcuts workshop
3. Wood-block cutting is the most important process in the printing of coloured Zhuxianzhen New Year pictures
4. The woodcuts are printed on Xuan paper, and the artisans still use ancient Song Dynasty techniques to cut prints
5. The pigments for printing New Year pictures are meticulously prepared using traditional Chinese herbal ingredients





composition: The composition of New Year pictures is full and well-knit, with few unused spaces. The figures and scenes are well arranged, and the patterns symmetrical and beautiful.

The New Year woodcuts are microcosms of the ups and downs of history. Some national museums in Europe and the United States have

collections of this art from Zhuxianzhen. The Moscow Museum holds 118 such New Year pictures, most of which date from the Qianlong reign of the Qing Dynasty. Lu Xun collected a large number of Zhuxianzhen pictures before his death, of which 42 are kept in the Lu Xun museums in Beijing and Shanghai.

Tough Competition for Hand-made New Year Pictures

These days New Year woodcuts face increasingly tough competition on the market. Firstly, the printing techniques are complicated. Producing the handmade works involves high costs and

low profits. For instance, blocks made from pear wood are expensive. Engraving a No. 2 block takes more than one month; and cutting a No. 1 block two to three months. Carving a set of blocks costs several thousand yuan. However the profit from a New Year picture is only five cents, and from a picture made on Xuan paper is just several dozen cents. Secondly, nowadays only a few people know how to engrave the blocks, prepare pigments and print the pictures. Some traditional techniques are close to being lost. Even if someone wanted to invest in making the pictures, it would be difficult to set up production within a short period of time. Thirdly, there are a wide variety of offset-printed New Year pictures on the market, featuring good designs, beautiful colours and low prices. As a result they sell well in both urban and rural areas. Fourthly, in the past farmers liked to paste the woodcuts on their doors rather than offset-printed pictures. But now farmers prefer the modern article. As the woodcuts lose their market, the number of artisans printing traditional New Year pictures has declined. Some artisans who used to make woodcuts have turned to producing offset-printed New Year pictures.

Despite the present situation, Zhuxianzhen has restored four New Year woodcuts workshops — Tiancheng, Laodian, Tianchengde and Tianyide — as well as a street featuring the art.

Translated by Kuang Peihua

The Making of New Year Woodcuts

First of all, a dried pear tree log is sawed into three-inch laths, which are assembled to make the required size block. The main tools include a saw, plane, axe, blocks, gouge and over 10 kinds of knives, including sharp, flat and round knives. Colour blocks are for printing colour pictures, and line blocks for line drawings. To print a coloured New Year picture needs several blocks, one for each colour. The more colours a picture has, the more blocks it needs, with nine blocks the maximum. Line drawings are printed with ink and only one block is needed. The engraved colour and line blocks are inverted. Workshops in Zhuxianzhen mainly use Banguang paper to print pictures because it is cheap. New Year pictures printed on Xuan paper are high quality but expensive, selling for more than 10 times the price. The one-metre curved knife used to cut the paper is made by a blacksmith's shop according to Song Dynasty paper-cutting techniques. The table for printing the pictures comes in various sizes. Three printers can work at the largest picture table at the same time, while the smallest only has room for one.

When printing, special clips are needed to prevent prints from slipping about. All printed pictures have to be dried on a pole.

New Year woodcut production also includes colouring requiring a brush. In the past, the brushes were made from certain grasses but as time passed these grasses became hard to find. Now many artisans use brushes made from palm fibres.

A workshop team consists of printers, cutters, designers, a boss and salespeople. In the past New Year pictures were sold by the lou, with one lou including 15 to 20 individual pictures.

With blue, yellow and red as the primary colours, New Year woodcuts

feature nine colours at most, such as black, gold, copper green, pink and sunflower-seed purple. Black pigment is made by mixing pine soot with water, which is kept until it ferments. Then the fermented pine soot is ground with a stone mill. Red pigment is made by boiling sappan wood. Artisans boil sunflower seeds to get purple, and yellow is prepared from sophora buds which are mixed with alum and boiled in a pot. Other colours can be made by mixing black, red, purple and yellow pigments. After being ground with locally produced stone mills, pigments are boiled in a pot. Preparing colours requires high skill. Artisans from different workshops keep their pigment methods secret and refuse to tell others.



All pictures have to be dried in the air after each colour printed



1. Carved wooden blocks made of pear wood can cost 1,000 yuan
2. With more customers turning to New Year pictures using modern printing techniques, many traditional workshops have begun to produce modern pictures
3. Traditional woodcuts are suffering from the endless stream of offset-printed pictures
4. A picture of the Kitchen Gods pasted in a household kitchen

Travel Tips

Transport — To visit Zhuxianzhen first go to Zhengzhou City, the capital of Henan Province, where the Beijing-Guangzhou, Lianyungang-Lanzhou and Beijing-Kowloon railways and an expressway meet. The 70-km trip from Zhengzhou to Kaifeng costs only six yuan by train and about 10 yuan by mini-bus. The 23-km trip from Kaifeng to Zhuxianzhen costs three yuan by mini-bus or 25 yuan by taxi.

Accommodation — It is very convenient for tourists to stay the night in Kaifeng. The local hotels offer low prices: An inn charges about 15 yuan per person a day; a hotel charges about 120 yuan a day for a standard room; and a star-rated hotel charges about 250 yuan a day for a standard room. Tourists can also stay in the small inns at Zhuxianzhen, the price ranging from five to 10 yuan per person a day.

Food — For only 10 yuan a day a tourist can sample a range of delicious snacks. Zhuxianzhen also has a variety of restaurants and snack stalls. One person needs only six yuan a day for food.

Shopping — Zhuxianzhen is the only place in the country where tourists can buy Zhuxianzhen New Year pictures. At the Zhuxianzhen Woodcut New Year Picture Press located in the middle of Yuemiao (Yue Fei Temple) Street, tourists may purchase the Collection of Zhuxianzhen Woodcut New Year Pictures (in full colour), at about 150 yuan a copy. Prices of woodcuts printed on Xuan paper depend on the size and contents of the picture. In general, a small print costs 0.5 to one yuan; a large one, one to two yuan.

(378) 6711 059

Zhang Jizhong, Liu Jinlu

In the Eastern Chamber of the Yue Fei Temple on the western side of the New Year Picture Press, tourists can buy a copy of the Collection of Zhuxianzhen Woodcut New Year Picture Stories (Volume I), for about 100 yuan. A small woodcut New Year picture printed with Xuan paper costs 0.5 to one yuan, and a large one, one to two yuan.

(378) 6711 109

Contact person: Yao Jingtang

Tourists can also buy New Year woodcuts at the folk workshops at similar prices in Zhaozhuang Village, 1.5 km south of Zhuxianzhen.

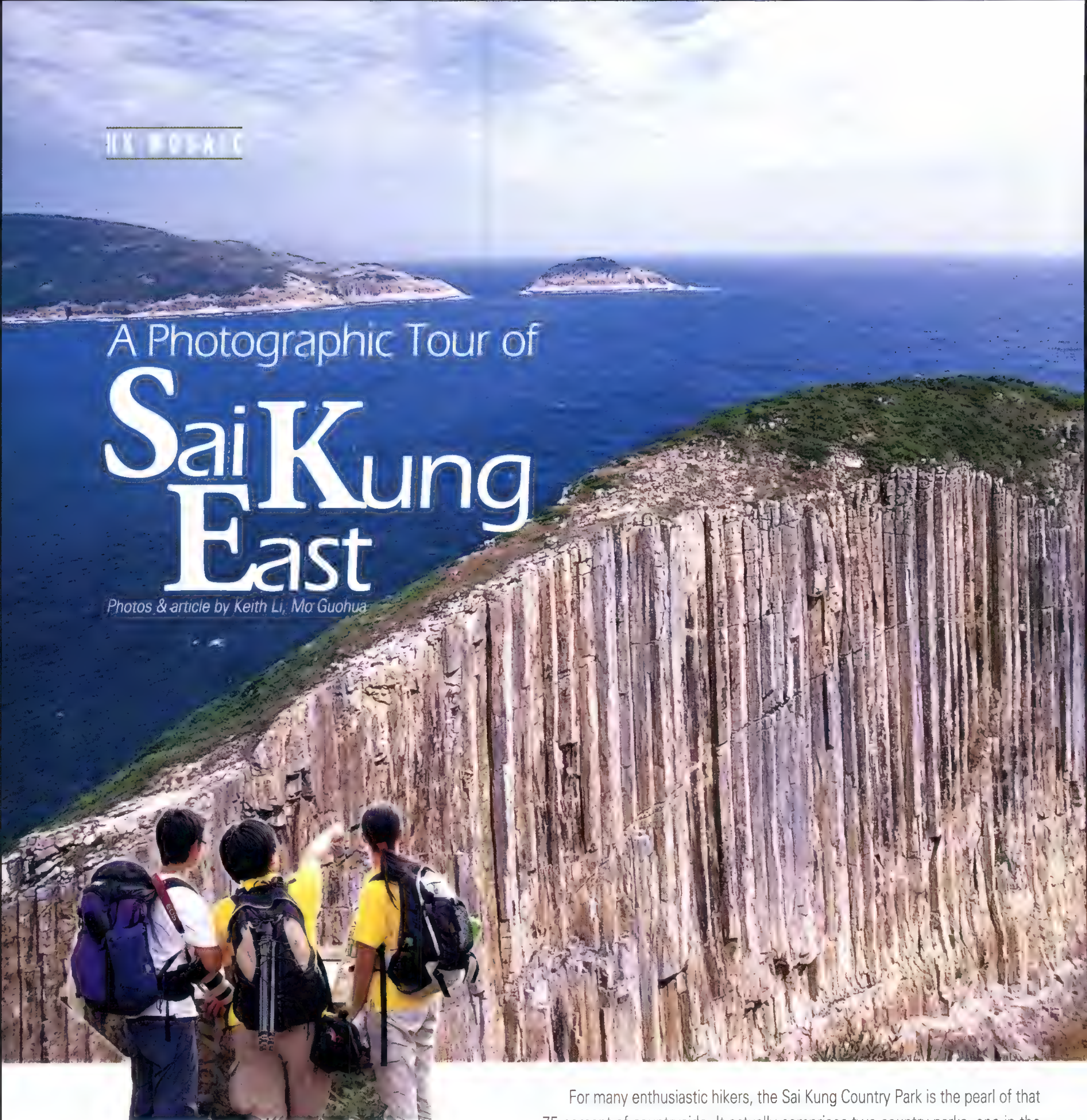
(378) 6712 323

Zhang Tingxu



A Photographic Tour of Sai Kung East

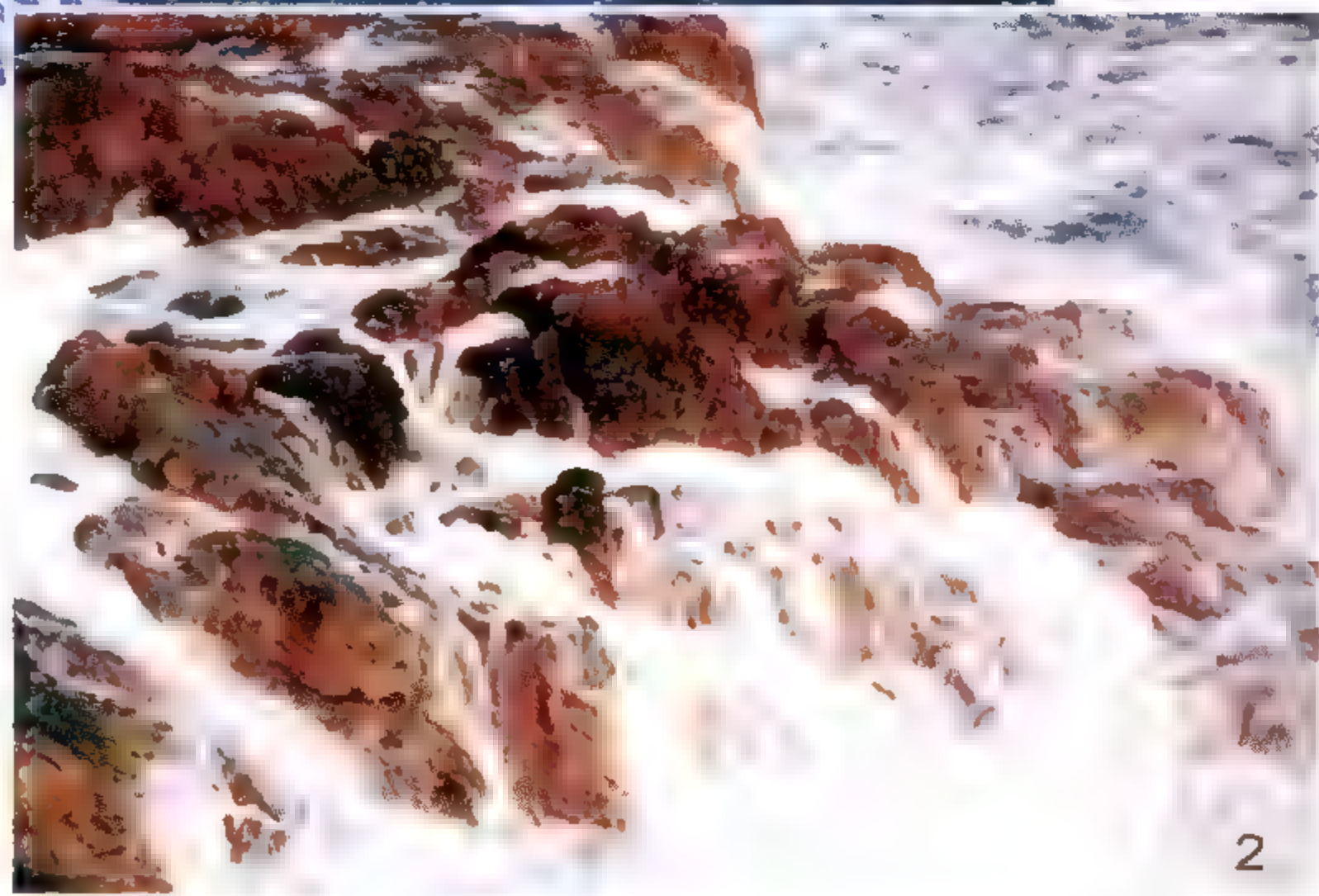
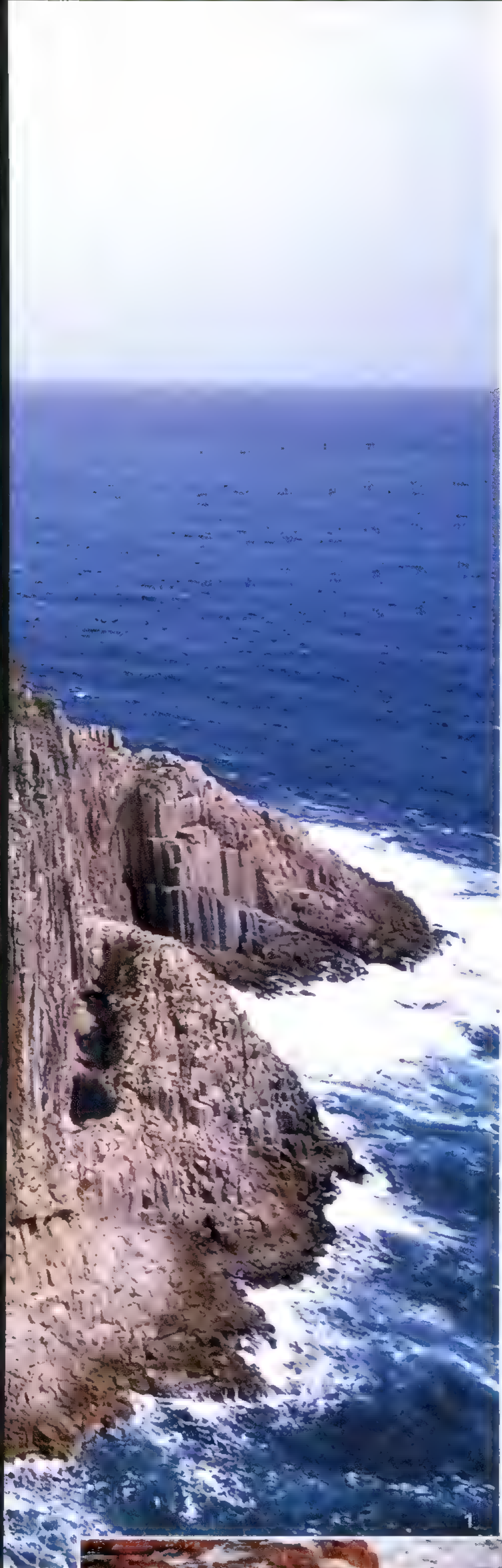
Photos & article by Keith Li, Mo Guohua



In many people's minds, Hong Kong is merely a concrete jungle packed with skyscrapers and crisscrossed with bridges and streets, with no natural landscape worth viewing. They are completely wrong. In fact, 75 percent of the 1,092-sq-km territory of Hong Kong is countryside. The so-called concrete jungle occupies only one quarter of Hong Kong's territory!

For many enthusiastic hikers, the Sai Kung Country Park is the pearl of that 75 percent of countryside. It actually comprises two country parks, one in the east and one in the west. The Sai Kung East Country Park boasts Hong Kong's most beautiful beaches and island seascapes, as well as striking mountain ranges and well-equipped travel or hiking facilities. No wonder it was awarded the title of "My Favourite Countryside Park 2001" by the territory's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Meanwhile, Po Pin Chau — a famous site in Sai Kung East also won a title, that of "My Favourite Scenic Spot 2001". The place is a paradise for city-dwellers and hobby photographers during weekends and public holidays.

In order to fully appreciate spectacular views of Po Pin Chau, and enjoy other scenic places in Sai Kung, we have carefully designed an itinerary for you. On a fine October day in 2002, we set off on the journey.



1. This spectacular view of Po Pin Chau leaves you in no doubt why it won "My Favourite Scenic Spot" in Hong Kong (by Keith Li)
2. Strange rocks are shaped after being endlessly pounded by the ocean waves (by Mo Guohua)
3. Kapok Cave formed by constant tidal erosion and weathering (by Mo Guohua)

Recommended Itinerary

Saturday Arrive Pak Tam Chung in the afternoon. Head to Pak Lap. After settling in, visit Kapok Cave and Lesser Po Pin Chau. Barbeque at a tourist resort at night

Sunday Photograph the sunrise on Tuk Ngu Shan. Return to Po Pin Chau via the eastern dam on the High Island Reservoir and lunch in Pak Lap. Return to Pak Tam Chung after taking in the sunset at the western dam



Recommended Photography Sites

Stop 1: Pak Lap Wan

◆ **Location:** Beaches east of Leung Shuen Wan (High Island), and facing Fu Tau Fan Chau (Town Island) and Wang Chau

◆ **Features:** Beaches with soft sand and clear water; eroded wonders like Muk Min (Kapok) Cave and Lesser Po Pin Chau

Kapok Cave A beach cave carved out over a long period by seawater erosion. The cave can be walked through when the tide retreats.

Lesser Po Pin Chau An island formed by a collapsed sea cave. The place attracts lots of fishing enthusiasts who come by boat.

◆ **How to get there:**

Pak Lap Take a bus to get to Pak Tam Chung in Sai Kung. Options:

1. KMB No. 94. Fare: \$5.9. Route: Sai Kung Town to Wong Shek Pier.
2. KMB No. 96R. Fare: \$12. Route: Diamond Hill MTR Station to Wong Shek Pier. The bus runs only during public holidays.
3. Mini-bus No. 9. Fare: \$5.5. Route: Sai Kung Town to Lady Maclehole Holiday Village.

Then take a taxi for about 20 minutes to the entrance of

Pak Lap. Fare: \$40. You can get there by walking along rocky steps for about 15 minutes. It takes about 1.5 hours to walk from Pak Tam Chung via the western dam to Pak Lap.

Kapok Cave/ Lesser Po Pin Chau Walking from the Pak Lap Tourist Village for about 20 minutes, one reaches a small wooded area. Continue through the wood and upwards along the mountain trail and you will see straight in front of you hexagonal rock pillars and a

boundless ocean view. The track forks at the end of the cape, the left fork leading to Kapok Cave and the right to Lesser Po Pin Chau. One should take exercise great caution on the path from the cliff to the mouth of Kapok Cave, since there are lots of loose stones on the way.

Shared Thoughts

"To climb the mountain, we had to walk along a narrow trail with a thick growth of wild flowers and grasses. Well, no pain, no gain! The landscape of mountain and sea became more and more spectacular as we walked higher and higher. Half an hour later, we came to the top of a cliff. Looking back, we saw reddish brown islands reaching into the sea like the arms of an octopus. The cliff, steep and sharply etched as if cut by a knife, comprises pillars of rock — a typical landform of Sai Kung. We walked along an arduous path on the right to reach the coast. A collapsed cliff, Lesser Po Pin Chau, came into sight. Waves roared as they hit the rocks."





Stop 3: Po Pin Chau

- ◆ **Location:** At the end of the cape by the eastern dam
- ◆ **Features:** The giant cape was carved by Mother Nature
- ◆ **Nearby spot:** A wider view can be enjoyed from the cliff than from Kapok Cave
- ◆ **Tips:** Many people view Po Pin Chau from afar at the eastern dam, but one cannot see the most unique aspect of the island from there. The best lookout is to climb across the peak at the end of the eastern dam, and stand on the cliff
- ◆ **How to get there:** One can start off from a trail on Fa Shan (Flower Mountain) or eastern dam. At the end of the trail, climb up the rocks and reach Po Pin Chau by following a small path. Both routes are of similar length and are very challenging. The first one requires patience and the latter requires use of hands as well as legs. The path leading to Po Pin Chau is easier to hike. But it is still dangerous on the peak.



Shared Thoughts

"On the return trip, we arrived at the eastern dam and saw another wonder: Po Pin Chau. The island looks like it has been cut off cleanly as though with a knife. The waves hit the island with great power, making a striking picture."

Just to remind you

Basic gear: Sufficient drinking water (at least 2 litres), hiking shoes, hiking stick, a change of clothes, food, fruit, sunhat

Pay attention to:

1. Don't walk alone, always go with friends
2. Don't run if you see a snake, walk away slowly. If bitten by a snake, try to identify its species or its features. Call the police immediately
3. Most communication networks for local mobile phones DO NOT cover this route
4. Don't forget sunglasses and sunscreen. But don't apply too much sunscreen to the skin, since it may cause heatstroke because of reduced heat loss

Reference websites: Hong Kong Conservatory www.weather.gov.hk
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department www.park.afcd.gov.hk

1. The High Island Reservoir is a haven for plants (by Keith Li)
2. The small path connecting Pak Lap and Man Yee Road in Sai Kung
3. A distant view of Town Island from a cliff (by Mo Guohua)

Stop 2: Tuk Ngu Shan

- ◆ **Location:** East of High Island Reservoir and west of Long Ke Wan, on the M020 section of the Macleho Trail
- ◆ **Features:** Facing the Pacific Ocean, it is surrounded by capes and hills, and is the best site to view or shoot the sunrise
- ◆ **Nearby spots:** Walking along the trail, one can see the High Island Reservoir and Po Pin Chau on the left, and Long Ke Wan and Sai Wan Shan on the right. Once on the summit, further areas such as Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung Town and Ma On Shan can be seen
- ◆ **Tips:** The hill is only 200-plus metres high but is covered in loose stones. Hence only suitable for experienced hikers
- ◆ **How to get there:** Walk eastward for about 20 minutes from the part of Man Yee Road which is near to Pak Lap, to the eastern dam. Walking upward along a rocky road leading to Long Ke at the end of the eastern dam, one can reach the top of Tuk Ngu Shan by following a rough path on the first branch road on the left. This path has been created by hikers over the years. But since few people use it, wild flowers grow over the trail. It takes about 45 minutes to walk.

Shared Thoughts

"With sleepy eyes we set off for Tuk Ngu Shan around 4 a.m. this morning to shoot the sunrise. Each one of us found an ideal angle and waited for the sun. The colours of the sky were changing from time to time, from dark blue to light blue, greyish white, light red, pink, light yellow. It was a bit of a pity that the clouds covered the sun."



Stop 4: The Western Dam

- ◆ **Location:** West of High Island Reservoir and near Yuen Ng Fan
- ◆ **Features:** Best site for photographing sunset
- ◆ **Nearby spots:** One can view Kau Sai Chau, the closest place to the western dam. Several mountains, including Kau Kuk Shan, Ma On Shan, West Buffalo Hill and Fei Ngo Shan, can also be seen in the distance
- ◆ **Activities:** Beneath the western dam is the Chong Hing Water Sports Centre, managed by the Leisure & Cultural Services Department. The empty area in front of the centre is going to be developed into a new country park
- ◆ **How to get there:** Can be reached by walking westward from the starting point of Pak Lap along the Man Yee Road for about 1 hour 45 minutes





TOP SERVICE
TO BUSINESS TRAVELLERS
AND TOURISTS ALIKE

Services include:

- * Worldwide hotel reservations
- * International flight bookings
- * Hotel packages
- * Organised tours of China, Asia, the United States, Canada and Europe
- * Cruises and holiday packages
- * Car rental service
- * Launch rental service
- * Eurail pass
- * Visa service

Service Hotline: **2516 9228** (Bonnie Lik) Fax: **2563 7994** E-mail: **travel@hkctp.com.hk**



ADVERTISEMENT ENQUIRIES

I am interested in advertising with **CHINA TOURISM** (Please complete in block letters):

Advertiser's Name

Product(s)

Issue No. / Page No.

Special Requests: ☐ Quotation ☐ Sample ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms): _____

Position: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

Major Type of Business (please specify): _____

(tick one): ☐ Import ☐ Export ☐ Wholesale ☐ Retail ☐ Agent ☐ Manufacturing

Signature: _____

Business Tel: _____

Fax: _____



Old Wells in Jianshui

Photos by Huang Yanhong, Xu Jinyan
Article by Huang Yanhong, Mo Hongxin

Jianshui, also known as Lin'an, in central Yunnan Province, has over 190 famous cultural relics among its numerous attractions. However the old wells that are so plentiful in Jianshui, and there are nearly 100 of them within the town area, are not included in the list of tourist sites. I became interested in them through catching occasional glimpses. So I gave up other sightseeing and visited more than 30 wells without a break, wrapping up a wonderful "tour of old wells".

An early morning in Jianshui, and a new day begins in the voices of well waters.

I went to Yongning Street early that morning eager to see the Four Wells, and was impressed by my first sight of them. The four wells are closely arranged in a square, the opening of each well only half a metre in diameter. Their mouths have been deeply scored by well ropes through the ages, impressing visitors with the mark of time. To the front of the wells is a Temple of the Dragon King, and to one side is a washing trough carved from a huge piece of stone.

Ancient Wells Protected by Dragon King

In times past each old well in Jianshui had its own Dragon King, which used to be a part of the "well culture" there. Some Dragon Kings dwelled in temples, while others were carved on stone steles in open



spaces. The locals believed well water could only be used with the blessing of the Dragon King. Unfortunately, some Dragon Kings have already come off "sentry duty".

Of all the Dragon King temples in Jianshui, the best-preserved one is by the Xiaojie Well, which is also the biggest in Jianshui.

Three Wells Deeply Hidden

The Three Wells and the Three Fountains are well known in Jianshui and have given rise to a popular saying. Specifically they are



the Dragon Well, Red Well, Zhuge Well, the Li Fountain, Yuan Fountain and the Pubo Fountain.

The Dragon reflects Jianshui's immigrant history. In the Ming Dynasty, immigrants from present-day Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces dug this well in

1. Such sweet-tasting water! The remainder is drunk in one gulp (by Huang Yanhong)
2. The Daban Well is also known as the Pubo Spring, but many people like to call it the Western Gate Well. It has a wide opening nearly three metres across, with six sections of carved stone edging the well mouth. Clean, cool and sweet, its water is perfect for teas (by Huang Yanhong)
3. The Four Wells form a tight square (by Xu Jinyan)





Jianshui and called it the Dragon Well. Obviously the name expressed their nostalgia as the water from Jianshui's Dragon Well is reputed to taste as good as that from the Dragon Well in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province.

What is a pity the Dragon Well is not only deeply hidden down a lane, but has pumps installed on two of its four holes. People fetching water from this well complain the quality is poorer nowadays.

Finding the Red Well was even more difficult. There is a Red Well Street, but I found no trace of the well there. It is said to have been filled in with earth during the construction of a building as long ago as the 1960s.

1. Along the flagstones leading to the Daban Well, people are always carrying water (by Huang Yanhong)

2. A Dragon King temple is built nearby the Four Wells in Yongning Street (by Huang Yanhong)

3. Selling water for household use at the crossroads on Lord Guan Temple Street (by Huang Yanhong)

4, 5. The three-holed well in the middle section of Donglin Temple Street (by Huang Yanhong)

6. This resident from a building beside the well fetches water in a bucket (by Huang Yanhong)



Why was it known as the Red Well? The dense foliage of an evergreen tree growing by the well was said to make the water look reddish, hence its name.

The Zhuge Well is actually a two-hole well with round openings, but I didn't find it.

Three Springs with Elegant Names

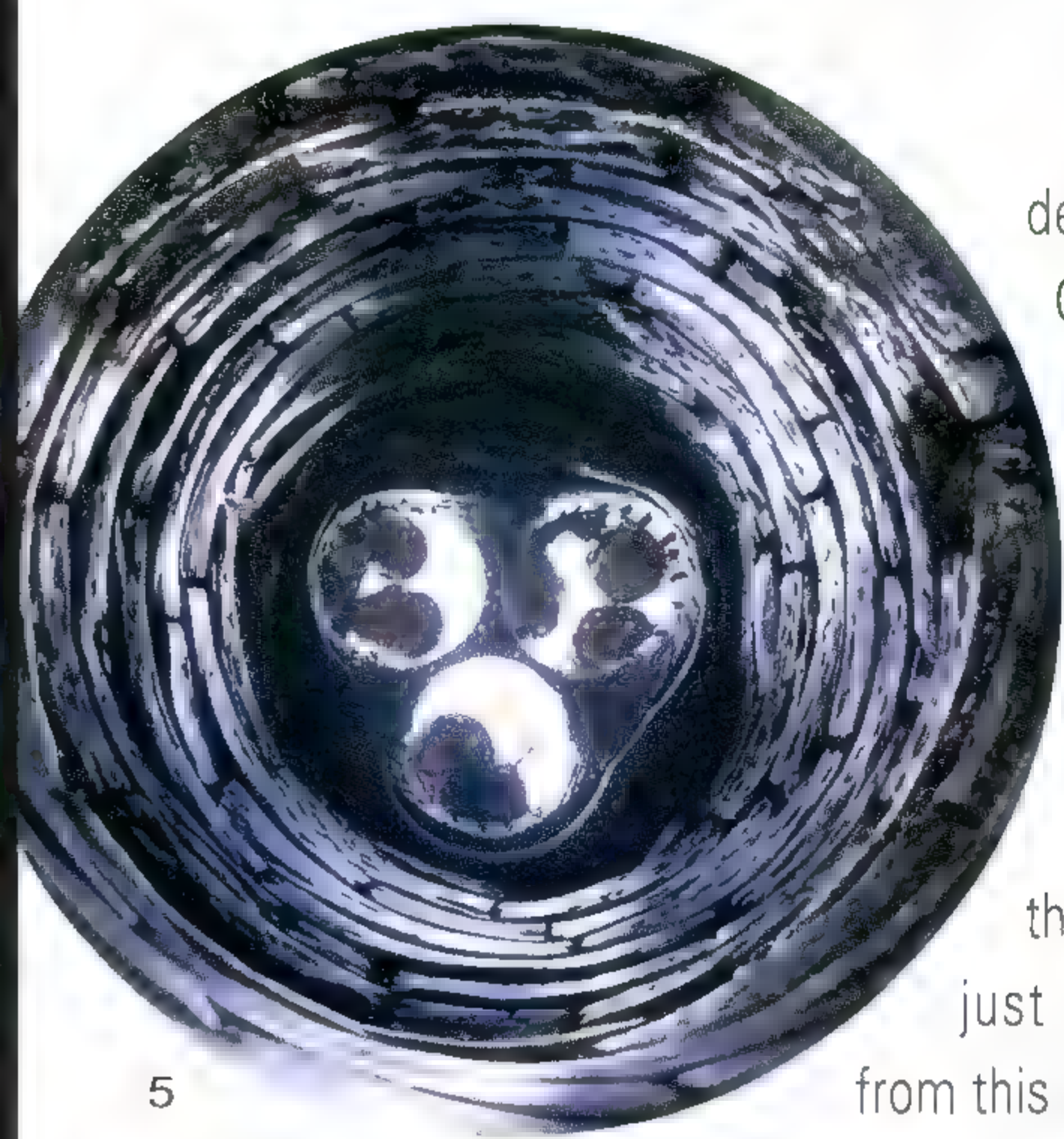
The Three Springs were more rewarding than the Three Wells. The springs are actually the Eastern Well, Daban Well and the Xiaojie Well. They are known respectively as the Li (醴) Spring, Yuan (淵) Spring and Pubo (溥博) Spring because their water is even better than in the Three Wells.

The Li Spring, or Eastern Well, got its alias from an old saying that "Sweet dew falls from the heaven, and sweet spring well up from below". The Chinese word Li here literally means sweetness. So a Li Spring is the best of the waters from the ground, a blessing from the divine. The Eastern Well is also the oldest well in Jianshui Town, dating from the town's beginnings in the Ming Dynasty. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Eastern Well was done up several times, with inscriptions left on stele recording each maintenance. Nowadays five or six stone steles can be seen at the well, and it is the most historically impressive well in Jianshui.

Nowadays the Xiaojie Well, or Yuan Spring, is the busiest second only to the Daban Well.

The Daban Well is Jianshui's best known well, and many people commonly call it the Western Gate Well because it is sited at the western gate of the old town. The opening of this well is rather large, nearly three metres across, and low wall protecting it is made out of six pieces of carved stone. Its water is





5

deliciously cool and sweet.

One drink and you will never forget it, especially when it is used to make tea. Most surprisingly, Jianshui people have an acute sense of taste; they can tell if the water is from the Western Gate Well from just one taste. So the water

from this well is the most popular in the town. No matter whether it's carried by poles on the shoulders or by vehicle, fetched for their own household or for sale, the water all comes from the Western Gate Well.

Elderly People Fetch Water to Keep Fit

Jianshui's numerous wells are a result of local geography. The town is on a small plain surrounded by hills, and the Lujiang River runs by one side of the urban area, resulting in abundant surface water and deep underground water. From the town's very beginnings the locals began to choose sites and dig wells. As the population increased so did the number of wells. Wherever there was water there were residents, and wherever there were residents there were wells. Just as a local saying goes, "First Daban Well, then came Lin'an Town."

Wells meet people's daily needs, encourage a peaceful life, and evoke nostalgic feelings. Moreover, they maintain close relationships between neighbours.

Walking along Yongning Street, I noticed all the people fetching water were elderly. This disturbed me somewhat. Don't the young people in Jianshui have any filial feelings? Finally I could not help asking: "Why don't young people come to fetch water?" "We consider water-fetching as physical exercise," an old man smiled. Suddenly the penny dropped. No wonder the older generation in Jianshui not only enjoy longevity but also are strong physically. The water here is fine, of course, but carrying water through the years has to be good for you as well.

A delightful option is visiting the wells by pedicab. It costs two yuan per well, and as long as you say how many wells you want to visit a tricycle will be able to take you there precisely. I had searched in vain for some wells, but the tricycle operators helped me find them.

Among those difficult to find is the Dongfu Well at the crossroad of the Donglin Temple Street. The three-holed

well has a deity tablet to the Dragon King.

Straight on from the Dongfu Well, I noticed the Linchang Well, called "Beggars' Well" by the locals. Villagers fetching water told me the water here tasted even better than from the Daban Well at the western gate although it was a much smaller well. An endless stream of people came along the field paths, on foot, by bicycle or by motorcycle. They all made a special trip to fetch water from this well.

Well Water Better than Piped Water

There is also the Yuer (Moon) Well, once well known in town. Its mouth is wide, the water clean, sweet and of good quality, and the surface is even higher than the nearby ground. Many people fetch water from this well. It used to have a cover fastened with an iron chain, leaving the surface of the water looking like a half-moon. Hence its name. Later the cover was removed and plaster applied to the opening instead when the well was rebuilt. Along with the demise of the





cover, the history of the well has also been plastered over.

Only 10 metres from Yuer Well is another single-hole well in the Dumb Temple. Three families live in the temple, and they have never drunk piped water although it is available. The residents said the well water was free of charge and tasted good. No wonder Jianshui people seldom drink piped water. They also said the piped water contains too much calcium carbonate, resulting in dense furring on the surface of boiled water. Before long, thick deposits also build up inside pots.

So a special industry has grown up there involving the carrying, boiling and sale of well water.

Early every morning, ox carts and hand carts rattle over the flagstones, and vendors' cries carry through the fresh air, "West Gate water for sale." Those living upstairs only have to lean out the window and shout "water". Instantly the water will be sent upstairs, two barrels for two yuan, and one *jiao* (cent) more for each floor.

On the top of a cooking range in a water shop, I saw a dozen copper pots. Beside the range was a price list: three *jiao* for a large thermos, two *jiao* for a small thermos, and eight *jiao* for a large copper pot. The boss said he had done this job for six or seven years, selling about 120 pots of water a day.

It was a painstaking job for him to fetch water from the Western Gate every day. I asked why he didn't get it from the Xiaojie Well since the water was cheaper and it had a pump. He replied Jianshui people could tell if the water was from the Daban Well from just one sip, so he dared go elsewhere even though it meant more work.

Looking into his copper pots, I found no thick white scale usually seen on the sides of a cooking pot. That proved the story that the western gate water left no furring or scale.



Quality Tofu Made with Fine Water

I had a meal in a street in Ximen (western gate). On a low table a big roasting grill was placed, and on it were piles of small pieces of some local specialty. It was tofu made with the water from the Western Gate Well, and it was indeed delicious. I roasted and ate some, accompanying it with a kind of special tea made from some wild herbs. Six or seven people sat around a table eating, each paying for himself or herself. The booth owner pushed a cup cover over to me, saying "one and half yuan." Then I noticed five corn grains in the cup cover meaning I had eaten five pieces of tofu.

The water from the Western Gate Well is fine, so there are many tofu workshops.

The tofu-makers are all women, and all the work is done on a wooden board. They wrap and unwrap pieces of tofu, putting aside the unwrapped ones that are the finished products. When all the tofu is wrapped up, another wooden board is placed on it, and some pieces of

square bricks added to the board as weights; then the women unwrap what has been pressed. With two boards operating in turn, a skillful woman can make 4,000 small pieces of tofu a day, exactly a full box.

Some of the women told me they were paid piece rates now, so those who wrapped more were paid more. According to the women, 100 tofu pieces are worth 0.36 yuan. So a woman worker earns only about ten yuan for an entire day.



Transport

If arriving at Kunming by air, a traveller may go to the Kunming Long-distance Bus Terminus and take bus to Jianshui. Several buses run during the day. Duration: 4 hours. Price: 40 yuan. The station is close to the airport, and it costs about 10 yuan by taxi.

Accommodation

The Jianshui County Government Hotel is recommended. A double-bed room usually costs 40 yuan, with a public but clean toilet.

Sightseeing

There are lots of old wells in Jianshui, but no maps available to guide visitors to the sites. So the best method is to ask the way from the locals. A faster way is to visit the wells by tricycle, at a cost of 2 yuan per well. Other historical places at Jianshui are Zhu's Garden and the Confucius Temple.



1. Busy women in a tofu workshop. At most a worker can make 4,000 small pieces of tofu a day (by Xu Jinyan)
2. Below the town gate is a pleasant place to relax (by Huang Yanhong)
3. In Jianshui, even the doors of private houses are cultural relics (by Xu Jinyan)
4. With such good quality water, there are people selling it everywhere in Ximen
5. Making a famous local snack food — roasted tofu (by Xu Jinyan)

A Haven Behind Limestone Caves

Photos & article
by Li Zhixiong

Bamei Village



Bamei Village is nestled in the hills behind limestone caves in Guangnan County, Yunnan Province, bordering the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Guizhou Province. Because of its secluded position, this village of the Zhuangs is almost isolated from the rest of the world. Only by taking a bamboo raft, canoe or small boat through two natural limestone caves that stretch about one kilometre in front of and behind the village can the villagers leave or enter their haven.

It was by no means an easy journey to find Bamei Village. After a great deal of difficulty, we finally arrived at the entrance to the Luoshui Cave which would take us into the village. Here a country road came to a dead end and on the roadside were scattered seven or eight farm-style buildings. An old man was squatting beside one of the buildings smoking his pipe. Before we even spoke, he pointed out the cave entrance to us and said, "Go in by boat, Bamei is on the other side of the cave." So we left our car with him and waited for a boat to take us into the village of Bamei through the cave.

Looking for the way in the dark

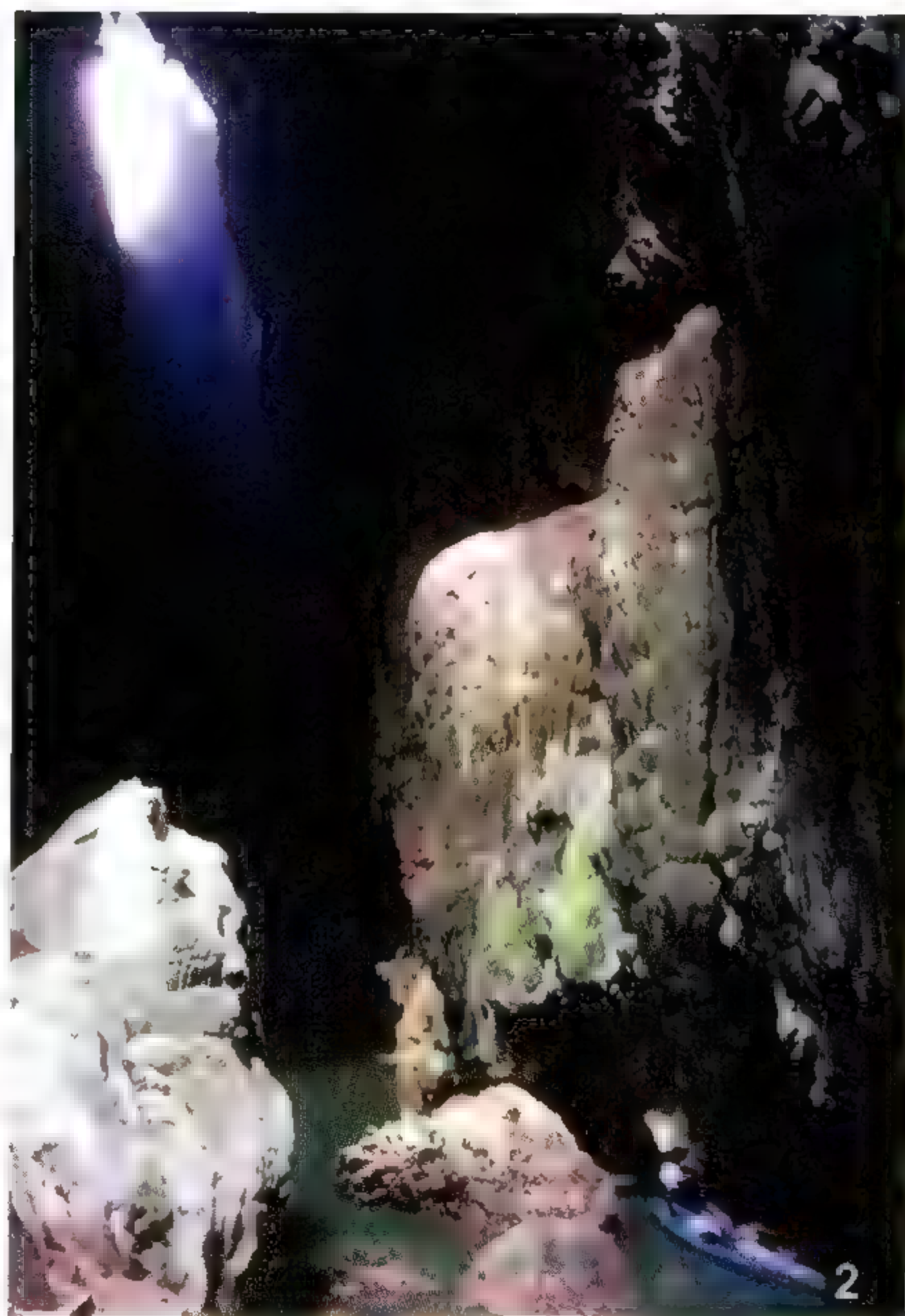
The water flowing from the cave was lovely and blue, so clear we could see the bottom and sometimes the fleeting vision of swimming fish. Thousands of swallows were flying in and out of the cave and all we could hear were their shrill cries. A young man had just ferried a few women to the market so we caught him on the return leg. It set us back three yuan per person.

As we cruised through the dark quiet cave, strange shaped rocks regularly came into view. We relied on a small weak lamp on the boat's bow to keep us on course.

The light shining in through three "skylights" in the cave was almost blinding. Our ferryman called these holes "Heaven's Umbrella".

Once out of the cave, we did see light at the end of the tunnel. And it was if we'd just completed a trip in a time machine that took us back through the ages. Surrounded on all sides by mountains, the lush and green Bamei Village was a sparkling emerald with the Ake River snaking through it, its waters shimmering under the bright sun. Ancient water mills squeaked and unhurriedly brought water from the river to the fields. Built tier upon tier on the slopes of the mountain, the Zhuang village made a perfect painting of simple yet lively farm life.

We decided to stay with the village head. The courtyard at his house had a kitchen and a stables on two sides, and like most other village households was a split-level (galan-style) building they call the "Malan Lou", with red bricks and dark green tiles on a double-eaved roof. The middle of the ground floor was a large hall the family used as a centre for activities, and discussions and chats, weaving and embroidery, meals and tea-times all took place in this room. On the two sides there were three bedrooms. The second floor was a timber structure. Climb the wooden stairs and you'll find a huge storeroom where grains, dried fish, farm implements



and weaving machinery were all kept. There was also a guest room where we stayed.

Using methane for cooking and lighting lamps

Bamei still has no electricity. "From 1958 we used electricity for a few years. With cement given by the government and a labour force from our village, we built a small hydropower station at the bottom of the Houpayan," said the father of the village chief who was almost 70 years old. Though having lost some hearing ability, he remembered the village's past clearly. He added: "The older people didn't know how to turn electric lights on or off. They were afraid to touch it, instead they looked at the

lights and wondered all day. Later because the technology used wasn't very sophisticated, the power station stopped working after four or five years, and we haven't rebuilt it."

In fact, the village makes good use of methane. Every family uses it to cook with



and for lighting. Everything is as it was over 300 years ago. Wooden ploughs till the fields, water wheels for irrigation are also wooden. Watermills or stones grind grain into rice or flour, and to weave fabric, the villagers grow their own cotton. If anyone wants to eat bean curd, they have to make it themselves.

We sat in the village head's lounge room listening to the rain outside and talked about Bamei Village with the whole family. Describing the past, the chief's father grew animated. "Bamei is from the Zhuang language and means 'cave entrance in the forest'", he said. "This place used to be dense jungle with many wild beasts and no people living here. Our ancestors were a family with the surname of Li from a Zhuang ethnic village in Guangdong. They left their homes to avoid the war and found this place on their way from Guangxi. To their surprise, they found Bamei to be exactly like the place described by the famous poet



1. The river entrance to Bamei Village
2. Total darkness in the deep quiet cavern, with only a small lamp at the bow of the boat to guide us
3. The central room of this Bamei house is used to receive guests and for the ancestral shrine
4. Bamei villagers lead plain and simple lives where the men farm and the women keep house



1. When villagers want fish, they throw a net into the river shallows and land a full catch
2. This gnarled and knotted giant banyan tree is a place for people to rest and cool off by day, but by night shelters lovers and flying foxes
3. Villagers grow cotton and weave their own fabrics
4. Villagers have long used a watermill or stones to grind rice or flour
5. Ancient water wheels irrigate the fields

Tao Yuanming (365—427) in 'Peach Blossom Shangri-La', so they settled here with no more worries about the terrors of war. Then the Huang family came from Hengchuan in Henan, the Long family came from Liuzhou in Guangxi, they are all of the Zhuang ethnic group, so we all made this place our home. The farm life here is harmonious and peaceful, the men tend the fields and the women do the housework. We've lived like this for more than 300 years, for 15 generations altogether. Right now the village has 119 households, 623 people, and almost none of the people over 60 have ever left the village."

Over the next few days, our time in Bamei was extremely idyllic. The lush sights and the unique lifestyles of the Zhuang people totally captivated us.

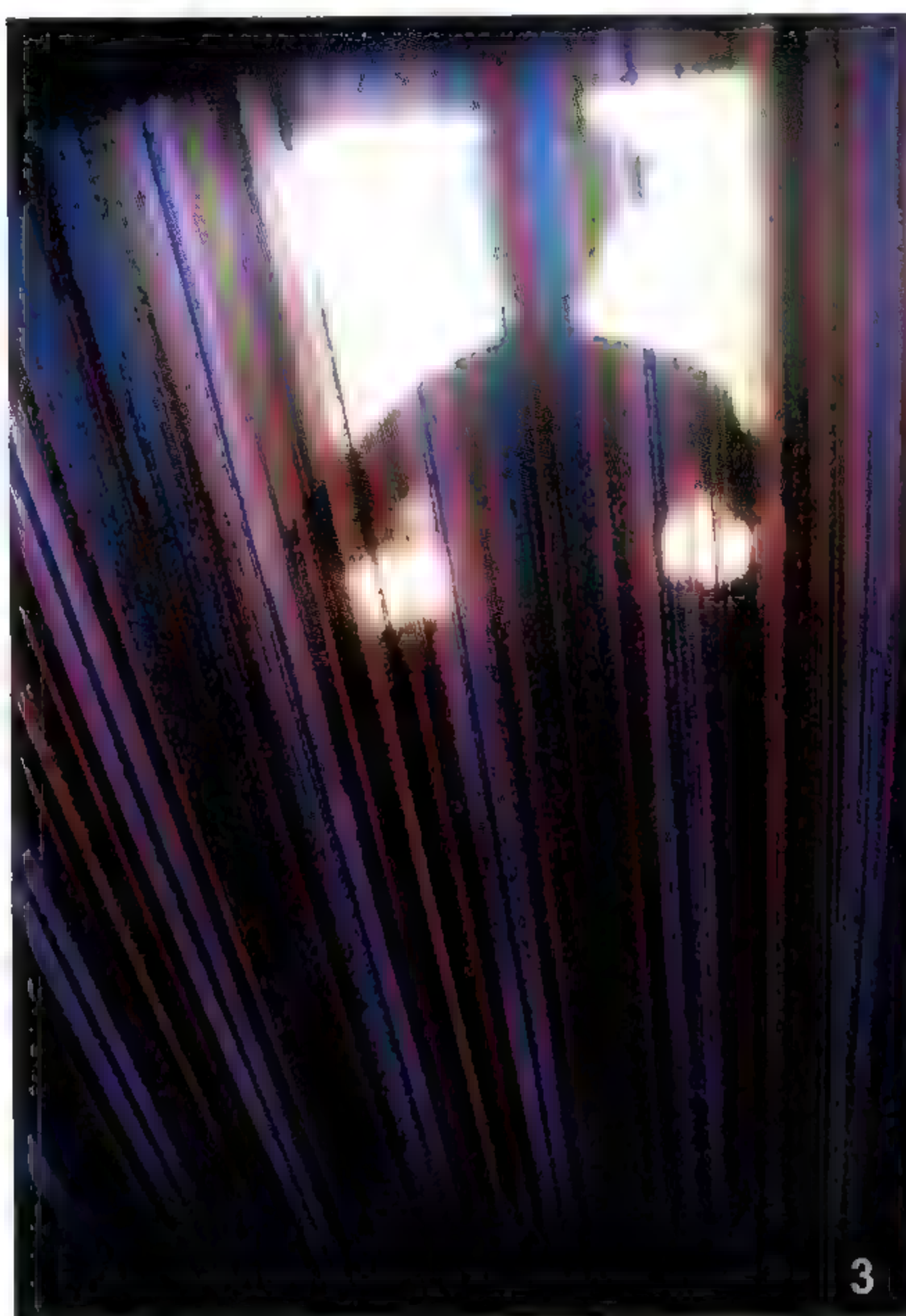
Within the village is a grass hut surrounded by thick wooden logs, its area of about 12 square metres containing nothing but three large smooth rocks. The villagers call it "Laorenting" (Old People's Hall). The logs around the hut keep out the farm animals so there is no disrespect to village ancestors. On the first day of the dragon, every May in the lunar calendar, the villagers begin work as soon as it is light. By early morning, people from the three main



families, Li, Huang and Long, have already butchered pigs bought with collected money. Then led by revered elders of those three families, everyone gathers at the Old People's Hall for a sacrificial ceremony to honour their forebears. On that day, the wooden logs are removed so the hall is open and the three pigs are placed on the rocks inside, incense is lit and people pay their respects to their forefathers.

Glimpsing "flying fox" under a giant banyan

Bamei has an excellently preserved ecosystem and its people have no greedy motives. They fish from the Ake River only to feed themselves, not to sell their catch. This has ensured an abundant supply of fish in the Bamei reaches of the river. When villagers want to eat fish, throwing a net in the shallow waters means a full catch. Houpayan is home to three or four monkey tribes, numbering 300~400. Every year during harvest season, the monkeys come to the fields in the village and share the



yield with the people.

We also discovered a bird-like creature called a “flying fox” that glides elegantly among the trees. At night, it looks for fruit on the banyan trees and apparently does this all year round. The village chief took us to find one at the giant banyan tree. He shone a small torch under the tree and picking up a newly broken branch, said a flying fox had just bitten it off. We handed him the spotlight and he showed us a pair of glittering red eyes like two little lanterns. Instead of fleeing immediately, it lay there on the branch watching us curiously. The creature was around 40~50 cm long but including its large furry tail it would be 80~90 cm; its head though did resemble a tiny fox.

Another entrance into Bamei lies below the Houpayan where the clear waters of the Ake River split in two before converging again after about 100 metres. People call the left side the “men’s river” and the right the “women’s river”. A crescent-shaped

Tips for the Traveller



Location: Bamei Village is part of Guangnan County, Wenshan Prefecture in Yunnan Province, and lies between Ake Township and Bada Township around 40 km to the north of the centre of Guangnan County.

Transport: Kunming has scheduled buses to Guangnan County, the 456 km ride taking nine hours. From Guangnan County, switch to buses that go to Ake Township (waterway entry) or Bada Township (waterway exit). If you explain you want to go to Bamei Village when you get on the bus, the conductor will tell you the best place to disembark.

Food and accommodation: It is possible to stay with the villagers in Bamei Village. Board costs 10 yuan per night, and food costs 10 yuan per meal.

island has formed naturally in the middle on which peach trees grow, earning it the name of “Peach Blossom Island”. Here an old custom is practised-skinny dipping. After a scorching summer’s day, the villagers who have toiled all through the heat come to Peach Blossom Island before sunset and swim naked in the men’s and women’s rivers respectively.

Unfortunately for the few days we were in Bamei, thunderous rain fell every evening at dusk and we were unable to witness this custom ourselves. But the village children spent most of the day naked in the river happily fishing, hunting for shrimp or rowing canoes, regardless of the weather or the difference between the men’s river and the women’s river. 



My IMAGE OF **BEIJING**

Photos & article by Tony Henderson

I had imagined tree lined boulevards, low rise homes with upturned eaves, side street stalls selling all kinds of happy foods and a bustling Chinese throng but my images were likely from a story book Beijing that never was. What we found, in winter — I was with a fun pal from the Philippines — was an approach to that I had envisioned but in a formidably modern garb.



Rested from the quite wonderful 27-hour train journey from Hong Kong, it up with the morning sun and a breakfast outdoors consisting of a freshly minted bread bun sliced in near half and packed with rapidly chopped hot fatty pork, fished out of a steaming bowl. A further filling was a handful of coriander that made a delicious garnish.

It was fun just to stroll the streets, indeed wide in their major passages but more friendly in their spin-off lanes that always held some small surprise, the hutongs (a specific name

for small lanes in Beijing), that told of an older China, that it did exist and side-tracking was a way of scraping the Beijing surface to get at it.

It was another "hidden" building that brought the next bout of entertainment — a very large foodstuffs wholesale market. Every produce of land and sea was under that roof. Huge marrows, pot-bellied salted fish, porcelain jars of pickles, bags of rice and pulses, boxes of Mandarin oranges and tangerines. Also, PLA coats, all weather Wellington boots, and general farmers supplies.

The Forbidden City was the next days' main intent. Busing it was more fun than a taxi-any twit could hire a cab — anyway the number 810 bus went directly to that must-see destination.... The trip allowed us to see the city and eventually, there were the huge wooden gates of that complex of Chinese style buildings which sight would suffice any China buff and deposit memories to savour for many a year. Just the immensity of it all.

What was missing of course was the humanizing element, real people living in a real world. Those bare halls and long empty avenues that had as their only delight their colourful decor. The sun shone brightly, the

wind blew into one's shirt collar and the feet trod on and on past meticulously hand painted walls with murals and phoenix roofs with their always enchanting curves and eaves.

Rock gardens with over fanciful names did not hold the true spirit on the ancient way of Tao. They could have been in ferro-concrete worked by a skilled labourer. Of course, the winter-dead trees and shrubs were in themselves sad, which was their essential duty that season.

By one doorway, teacher-artist Meng Qing Xiu from the old capital of Xi'an lay in wait to pounce — in a most well intentioned way — on the passing tourist trade to give them a quick tour of his student's pictorial productions. We bought a four seasons series of paintings which were really charming — only HK\$450.

Our exciting end to the day demanded a special treat and that, in Beijing, is steamed dumplings with beer. Now, for a place to so indulge we did not want that posh restaurant but rather that side street hole-in-the-wall eatery and it was found, within 15 minutes start of our intensive hutongs search.

The day of the big trip came and we had all





the paraphernalia for an arctic jog. A cross-town bus with all its accompanying sights took us, again eventually, to a dusty ring-road roundabout area where we found minibus 919 for the Badaling Great Wall.

There are various places that can be taken as start-off point to see the Great Wall of China but Badaling looked good enough for us and it certainly was. Jostled in my expectations of Beijing, I realised that I was likely similarly mis-interpreting the Great Wall. Surely it cannot be traversing the higher mountains because invaders would find mountains themselves sufficiently adverse for their invidious schemes.

Alighting in bleak surrounds all we saw were bare mountains, bare trees, boulders, dry river beds, and tourist shops all grayed out in the clouded departure of Mrs. Sun — it was 2 p.m. Chilled, the noodle restaurant beckoned and inside there was not only buckwheat noodles in a lovely sauce but steamed dumplings, the very substance to store up some heat for the next leg.

What a sight when we had run the gauntlet

of tourist shops and came out in full view of the Great Wall. It was tremendous. The sun came out and the high, light brown wall linked its way up and over the nearby mountains in a striking engineering feat of lofty intentions and obvious hard work by the coolies.

A Chinese flag flapped in the merry breeze as we began trundling the early stages, passing through castle tower styled blocks that would shelter soldiers from the bitter winds. On the northern side a wall to the height of a tall man, while on the friendly side of the wall, just a low run of stone to guide the walker along the long run of stones leading up the mountain slopes.

To reach a worthy vantage place a steep section of wall had to be climbed and as there was a downward draft of no mean wind speed, that was something of a challenging trek as there was the possibility of being blown head-over-heels back down the ramparts.

We made it though and my Filipina companion really got the honours because this terrain and climatic condition was a far cry from the tropical Philippines. Tears were brought to the eyes with the biting wind. With her cold-reddened cheeks, inches thick cladding and ruffled black hair shining in the sunlight she had become a veritable Tibetan!

The last night was the most exciting entertainment night we had, and would have, for many a moon. We had booked a table at

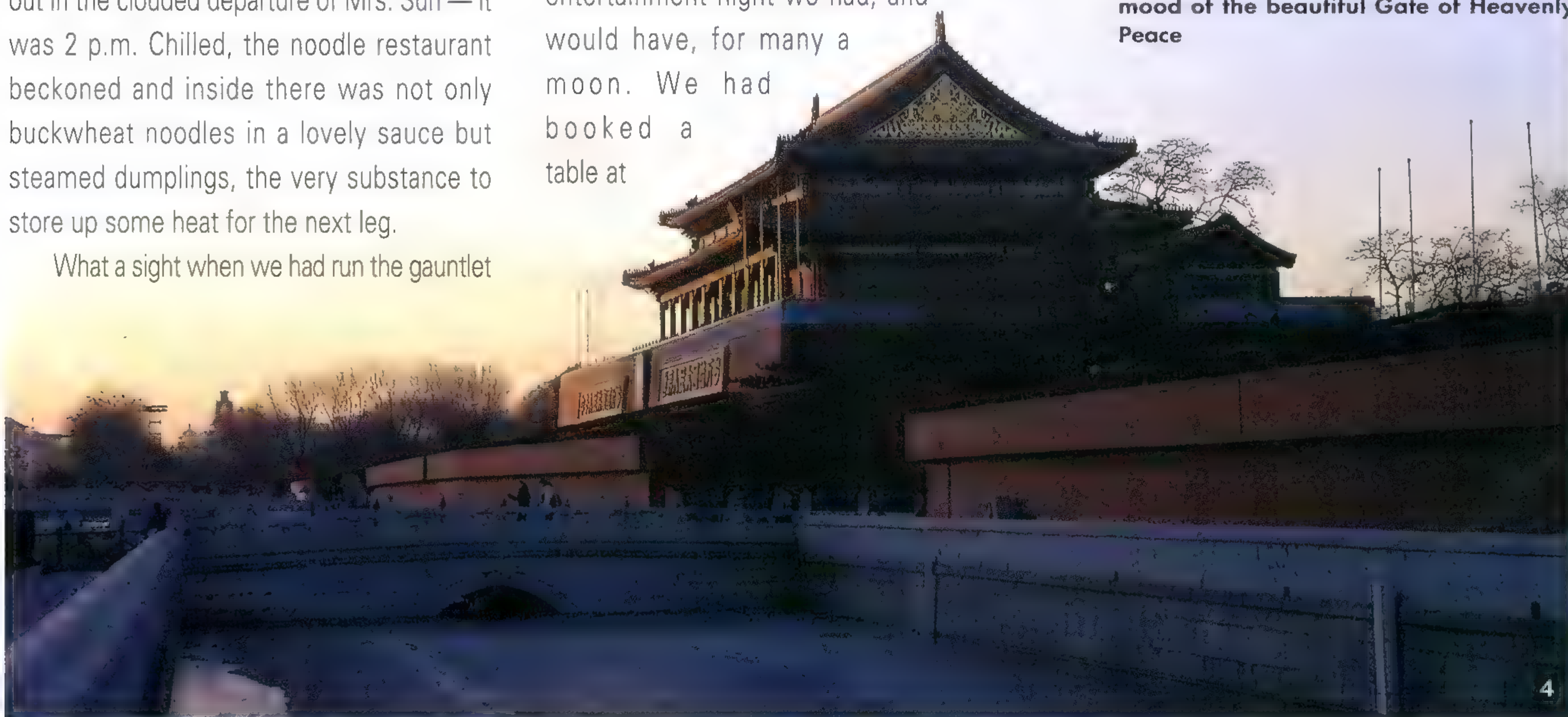
an Uygur restaurant called A Funti, with Xinjiang cuisine, live music and "table top dancing".

Beijing turned out to be not what I had thought but a lot more than what I had imagined. It is a different China. In modern vein, there was food street with all of its ethnic snacks, set in a long row where the youngies strolled each evening. There was an entire district of modern pubs and bars — in the Sanlitun Chaoyang District — in type ranging through Dirty Nellies with live bands Friday and Saturday, an Irish pub, to a typical Japanese jazz bar, Jazz Ya.

But the human warmth of the more lively hutongs ruled the day because in any city, whatever the main attractions, it is the lesser joints in the company of ordinary man that impress with those special memories and place some moments dear. Oh, now with one exception, that Uygur belly dancer. My fairytale image of Beijing was not so far wrong after all!



1. Beijingers enjoy the warm afternoon rays of a winter sun, sheltering from the northerly winds by the walls of the Forbidden City
2. Visitors find souvenir shops for purchases to remind them of their Great Wall adventure
3. The Great Wall of China, an ascent into the past toward a brilliant blue sky
4. A wintry sunset suits the sombre evening mood of the beautiful Gate of Heavenly Peace





EXPERIENCES IN TRAVEL

The Art of the Cow in Western Europe

Some say the whole of Western Europe is a huge farm, while the locals think all the world's cows originate from this region. Western Europe is really passionate about cows. Visiting it is like entering a bovine world.

According to Greek mythology, Zeus, the God of the Immortals, attracted Europa, a beautiful lady he was smitten with, by transforming himself into a handsome white bull. Europa's brothers searched everywhere for their sister and finally found the territory of today's Europe, which was named after Europa. For this reason at least, it can be said there would be no Europe without cows.

Cow culture has grown richer with the development of Western history. The symbol of the cow has long wielded a profound influence on the economic environment. Stock exchanges have "bull markets". In Spain, the people are mad about their breath-taking bullfights. In the NBA, there are Chicago Bulls and Dallas Mavericks. Beef and milk are musts on the list of Westerners' favourite foods. It could be said cow culture is one of the most dynamic cultures in the Western world.

In the "Cow and Art — Salzburg 2000" exhibition held in Luxemburg, the hyperbole and humour of the Western European can be seen. Over 100 colourful cow statues were displayed in the country's streets and lanes. The shape, size, expression, posture and type were almost the same as those of real cows, their eyes reflecting their philosophy of life. Even the cows' colours and patterns were interesting: a scarlet body dotted with coffee beans, reminding one of Austrian coffee; one "dressed" in traditional Austrian clothing looked like a housewife living at the foot of the Alps; human faces drawn on its body as if showcasing various human lives. Through this exhibition, you can have a better understanding of Western culture.

Perhaps this is the real Western Europe — the homeland of cows.

Feng Yangjun, Zhongshan

"Keeping Warm" Mystery in Xishuangbanna Revealed

During the 1.5-hour drive from Menglun to Mengla in Xishuangbanna in West China's Yunnan Province, we passed a village called Mengyuan. Mr. Wang, a former photography journalist for Beijing TV, told me a story about this village. On a cold winter night many years ago, a caravan stayed overnight in this village. Sadly, one of the visitors took ill and later died. The villagers were very upset that a guest from far away had died in their village. Since then there was an unwritten rule in the village that whenever passersby asked to stay a night there, young single female villagers had to use their bodies to keep the guests warm. However, the villagers never told outsiders about this rule nor the reason for it.

Wanting to believe yet still sceptical, we went into a bamboo house in the Dai village. Mr. Wang, in Dai language, brusquely asked an old woman in the house whether the legend was true or not. To our surprise, the smiling woman admitted it was. She also happily told us that the lady who carried a baby downstairs was her granddaughter. The four-month-old baby was born after her granddaughter had "kept warm" a guest. We were shocked at hearing this.

The grandmother continued. As times have changed, "keeping warm" has become one of the ways for young female villagers to look for lovers. Hence, young single guys are welcomed most of all. A guest has to ask permission from the parents or elders in the family as well as gain the agreement of the daughter. And it all depends on fate whether they "keep warm" or not. If the couple conceives a baby, the female's family will immediately propose a wedding to the man. If the man rejects marriage, he must pay the fees for termination of pregnancy.

The mystery of "keeping warm" has finally been solved. The tradition has already changed from one of voluntary help to a move to find a mate.

He Shili, H.K.



BELOVED SOUVENIRS

A Little Magic from Ethnic Minorities

On a trip to Yunnan recently, I visited a market run by ethnic minorities, and found this amazing bracelet. I initially assumed the exquisitely crafted bracelet was silver but it turned out to be an alloy of copper and nickel. But more important than its look was its function. For the local Hani and Bulang people, this is a special ornament for men. Besides being decorative, the tiny pendants are "cleaning treasures" with different functions: a pair of pliers to pull out moustache hairs, a toothpick to clean teeth, ear pick to remove dirt from ears... Its purpose is similar to the multi-function knives popular with modern people. What's more it is prettier. When the vendor demonstrated the "magic" of this bracelet to me, an outsider, the surrounding women all laughed like children. They even eagerly helped me to put on the bracelet, and said it looked great. Finally, I bought this bracelet and an interesting memory for 20 yuan.

Purchase place: Xiding Thursday market in Menghai County, Xishuangbanna, Yunnan

Xiaoji, H.K.



NECESSITIES EN ROUTE

Live Travel, Love Face

No matter how busy my daily routine, skin treatment is not to be missed. When travelling outdoors, this is even more important. From my personal experience, if I am to show my face at its best in dry or humid weather, applying a facemask is essential. Besides cleansing, the mask can boost the nutrients the skin needs. It can also effectively minimise facial wrinkles.

For a journey of three to five days, you can manage without a mask. But if the trip is over five days, I suggest you apply the mask once a week. The individual mask packs sold in the shops are very convenient for carrying and using. You should base your choice of mask on the type and needs of your skin. When you need it, you can buy a mask made by any brand.

He Aiqiong, H.K.



RECOMMENDED HOSTEL

Deluxe Lodge in New Zealand

If you want elegant luxurious enjoyment while touring New Zealand, why not consider staying in some deluxe tourist villas, called "lodges" by the locals. Located in environments that are

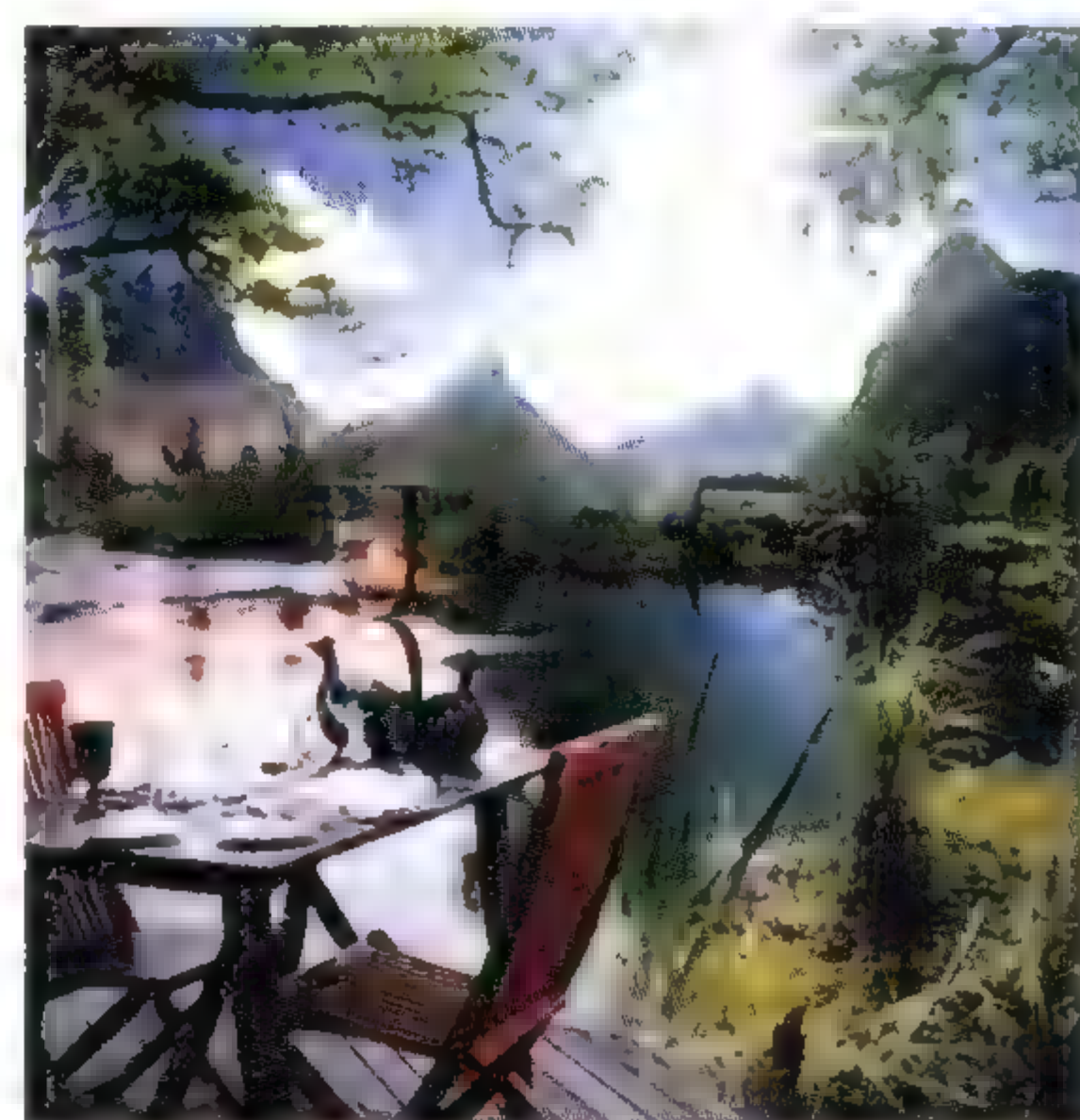


havens from the real world, a lodge usually contains 4~10 houses. Most of the furnishings are curios or works by famous designers. They also feature a private spa pool, balcony, and stove in the room to cater to the different needs of the guests. Or the lodge will hire professional chefs to cook dishes from all over the world, and also arrange a variety of indoor or outdoor activities for guests.

One of these famous yet tranquil lodges is the Moose Lodge & Golf Resort. Celebrated figures like Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles, and Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew have stayed there. Another luxurious resort set among coastal forest has been chosen as one of the best resorts in the world for years.

The cost per night of staying in these lodges is around NZD 500 (HK\$ 1,950), while some may be more expensive. Some offer discounts in off seasons. Travellers should book the lodges in advance through big travel agencies, or the website of the New Zealand Lodge Association: <http://www.lodgesofnz.co.nz/>

Lanzi, H.K.



ARTICLE LISTED ACCORDING TO PROVINCE, AUTONOMOUS REGION, MUNICIPALITY AND SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION REGION

Issue	Anhui	Page
261	Enjoying Mount Huangshan in Autumn and Winter	61
267	Mount Jiuhua—High Point of a Cultural Journey	14
	Mount Jiuhua—One of China's Four Famous Buddhist Mountains	16
	Shexian County—Birthplace of Huizhou Culture	24
	Tunxi Old Street—a Unique Ancient Thoroughfare	30
	Jixi County—a Place of Celebrities	32
	Ancient Residences in Yixian—Heritage of the Century	34
268	The Men in Yellow	64

Issue	Beijing	Page
258	No Ordinary Journey, No Ordinary Feeling	57
259	Beijing's Hutongs: Foundations of an Old City	68
260	A Day in Beijing in Photos and Words	40
261	Looking Back: A Trip to Beijing in 1997	76
264	A New Scenic Spot on the Great Wall: Five Tigers' Gate	70
267	We Love Rock 'n Roll	48
269	Yuanmingyuan Revisited	74

Issue	Chongqing	Page
268	Bidding Farewell to the Three Gorges	58

Issue	Fujian	Page
258	Zhangjiajie, Still as Charming as Before	14
	Four Days in Wulingyuan	18
	Spectacular Sights in Suoxi Valley	26
	Rafting on the Maoyan River	28
	Ancient Village and Hope School	32
	Touring the Tianmen Mountain Scenic Area Alone	34
260	Children in Jubilant Celebrations	68
265	A Four-Day DIY-Trip in Xiamen	60
267	Daqiang Puppets	80
268	Peitian—a Strange Land	78
269	Heritage Tour of Quanzhou	70

Issue	Gansu	Page
258	Paper-Cuttings and Embroidered Pouches from Eastern Gansu	74
259	The Dama Flower Festival in Southern Gansu	56
261	Zhuiba: A Special Kind of Bread	71
267	In Search of an 8,000-year-old Prehistoric Site	78
268	The Sangemao—Special Tibetans	74

Issue	Guangdong	Page
259	Hometowns Revisited: Chaozhou and Shantou	14
	Shantou: A Century-Old Special Zone	16
	Nan'ao: An Island for Holidaymakers	20
	Chaozhou: A City 1,600 Years Old	24
	Repository of Ancient Culture of the Central Plains	30
	Tour in Haifeng, Lufeng and Shanwei	32
262	The Indispensable Old Home	72
263	Happy Times on an Ocean Liner	13
266	Unyielding Homesteads—the Watchtowers of Kaiping	38
	Back to Hailing Island	40
267	An Evening at the Little House of True Feelings	76
268	Four Different Themes in Guangdong	14
	Northern Guangdong: Landscape and Custom Tours in Shaoguan and Qingyuan	18
	Western Guangdong:	
	Beach Holiday in Zhanjiang	24
	Eastern Guangdong: Heritage and Nature Tours in Heyuan	30
	Guangdong: Hot Spring Highlights	36

Issue	Guangxi	Page
259	Guilin and Yangshuo—the Six Hundred Yuan Getaway	72
261	Beautiful Detian: Scenery Endowed by Nature	44
261	Dining in Guizhou and Guangxi	72
264	The Wedding Rites of the Tanka People	71
265	Wonders of Liuzhou	13
267	Love for Yangshuo	13
268	The Ancient Town of Huangyao	70

Issue	Guizhou	Page
259	The Shidong Dragon Boat Festival	47
260	The Basha Tribe from Another Age	52
261	Dining in Guizhou and Guangxi	72
261	Tiaohua Festival of the Xiaohua Miao People	74
262	The Tunbao Honouring Mothers Festival	68
262	Changeable Fanjing Mountain	71
265	Wish Them a Happy Children's Day!	66
269	Captivating Southeastern Guizhou	12
	Celebrating Culture	14
	Dive in Bamboo Music at Lusheng Festival	15
	Youngsters Choose Their Lovers at Sisters' Rice Festival	17
	Highest Respect for Ancestors: Guzang Festival	18
	A Nation of Music, a Festival of Songs: Dong Drum Tower Festival	20
	Sweet Taste of Tangerine Festival	22
	Mysterious Harong Festival	23
	Getting Drunk at the Miao New Year	24
	Water Churning with Paddles: Dragon Boat Festival	26
	Mini-skirted Miaos' "Valentine's Day": Maoren Festival	27
	Dongs' Women's Day: Sama Festival	28
	Festivals in Southeastern Guizhou	30
	A Date with the Dong Ethnic Communities	32
	Cruising the Wuyang River	40
	Southeastern Guizhou Travel Tips	44

Issue	Hainan	Page
265	In the Southern Realm	40
266	Blue Skies of Hainan Island	14
	A Different Life in Haikou	18
	Be a Rich Person for One Day in Bo'ao	24
	Continuing a Dream Journey	26
	Climbing Wuzhi Mountain	28
	Sanya—a Waterfront Paradise For Ever	30
	Three Feelings of the Sea: Dadonghai, West Island, Sanya Bay	32
	Visit Sanya Again	34

Issue	Heilongjiang	Page
259	Father, Son and Monkeys	79
260	Playground of the Emperors: Chengde and the Bashang Highland	14
	A Venture in Bashang	16
	Mulan: The Emperor's Favourite Hunting Ground	20
	A Royal Style of Hunting	26
	Bashang: Topography and Natural Resources	28
	Mountain Resort: Summer Palace of Qing Emperors	30
	A Tour of the Eight Outer Temples	34
261	Touring Bashang in Golden Autumn	77
264	A New Scenic Spot on the Great Wall: Five Tigers' Gate	70

Issue	Heilongjiang	Page
260	From a Place Far from Home to a Foreign Country: Knocking About Harbin and Vladivostok	44

Issue	Henan	Page
259	The Rugged Beauty of the Yellow River: Wanshan Lake Scenic Area in Xin'an	48
259	Father, Son and Monkeys	79
260	Fish Jumping on the Yellow River—a Lost Scene	74
262	Tri-colour Glazed Pottery in Luoyang	66
263	In a Small Village Far Away	64

Issue	Hong Kong	Page
258	My Days in Hong Kong	76
260	Chasing Wind and Waves in Sai Kung East	58
262	Four Visits to Stanley	62
262	Travel Industry Bounces Back: Looking Forward to ITE HK 2002	79
263	Reminiscence in Tai O	40
263	Growth of China Outbound Travel Expected in 2002: Buyers to Meet Suppliers at ITE HK	47
264	Museum Circuit	66
266	Ecotourism in Peng Chau: A Sustainable Development	72
268	Take a Walk on Lamma Island	66

Issue	Hubei	Page
268	Bidding Farewell to the Three Gorges	58

Issue	Hunan	Page
265	Journey to the Taohua River	50
269	A Diamond Inlaid in a Green Land: Fenghuang Today	54
269	The Ancient City of Yueyang	78

Issue	Inner Mongolia	Page
258	A Winter Nadam in Hulun Buir	50
258	Arxan: An Ideal Summer Resort	80
260	Playground of the Emperors: Chengde and the Bashang Highland	14
	A Venture in Bashang	16
	Mulan: The Emperor's Favourite Hunting Ground	20
	A Royal Style of Hunting	26
	Bashang: Topography and Natural Resources	28
	Mountain Resort: Summer Palace of Qing Emperors	30
	A Tour of the Eight Outer Temples	34
261	Touring Bashang in Golden Autumn	77
262	Great Wall Fortresses in Shanxi and Inner Mongolia	36
263	Alxa—Land of Mystery	14
	The Alxa Left Banner	16
	Ejin Banner	22
	The Alxa Right Banner	30
266	Into the Badain Jaran Desert	42

Issue	Jiangsu	Page
263	Taihu: Vast Expanse of Water	48
264	A Century-long Sentiment	13
264	A Time Tunnel Back to Antiquity: The Wuxi CCTV Film & TV City	44
265	The Unforgettable Wuxi Grand Hotel	48
267	A Different Taste of Jiangsu	54

Issue	Jiangxi	Page
258	In the Lake of Mandarin Ducks	64
259	A Photography Tour to Mount Lushan and Liukeng Village	50

Issue	Jilin	Page
262	Mount Changbai: Three Perspectives	14
	Mount Changbai File	16
	Climbing Mount Changbai, Starting from the Northern Slope!	18

The Western Slope: A Day in Paradise	24
The Southern Slope: Travelling Along the Border	30
Hunchun: Three Countries at a Glance	32

Issue	Macao	Page
258	Addicted to Dining in Macao	66
262	On the Old Streets of Taipa	56

Issue	Ningxia	Page
262	Driving a Car to Visit Yinchuan	46

Issue	Qinghai	Page
261	Photographing Birds on Lake Qinghai	54
263	Who is Destroying the Grassland? — Thoughts on Chinese Caterpillar Fungi	52
264	My Passions for the Yangtse River	50
268	Tales of the Tibetan Antelope	44

Issue	Shaanxi	Page
259	Fifteen Days on the Loess Plateau: A Backpacker's Account	62
259	Searching for the Ruins of Tongwan	76
261	Huaqing Palace Today	13
261	An Adventurous Mission to Take Pictures at Hukou	60
261	Zhuiba: A Special Kind of Bread	71
264	Around Shaanxi, Xinjiang and Sichuan in 22 Days	72
265	Xi'an — Baoji: A 21st Century Trip	14
	New Life in the Ancient City of Chang'an	16
	People's Funland at the Foot of the City Walls	17
	The Efang Palace: A Vanished Wonder	20
	On the Square: One's Heart Flies with One's Kite	22
	A Street of Cultural Traditions:	
	New Inventions Using Old Traditions	24
	New Scenes Outside the Han Chang'an City	26
	Major Tourist Spots in Xi'an	28
	Baoji: A Place of Antiquity	30
	Major Tourist Spots in Baoji	34
	Xi'an — Baoji: Domestic Delicacy Streets	36
	Xi'an — Baoji: A 21st Century Trip Travel Tips	38

Issue	Shandong	Page
263	The Natural Buddha	79
264	Viewing Shandong in the Air	38
265	Enjoying the Net-taking Festival in Shandong	59
266	Flying Amidst Pear Flowers: A Visit to Jiujianpeng in Linyi of Shandong	52
266	Scorpion — a Famous Food in Shandong	79

Issue	Shanghai	Page
261	Tour Shanghai by MTR	50

Issue	Shanxi	Page
259	Fifteen Days on the Loess Plateau: A Backpacker's Account	62
259	Father, Son and Monkeys	79
261	An Adventurous Mission to Take Pictures at Hukou	60
262	Great Wall Fortresses in Shanxi and Inner Mongolia	36
263	Photos Shoot in Shanxi Province	63
263	In a Small Village Far Away	64
264	Southern Landscape on the Loess Plateau	59
267	Pangquangou in Summer and Autumn — a Trip to the Pangquangou Nature Reserve in Shanxi	58

Issue	Sichuan	Page
258	A Yi Wedding	72
259	Appreciating Snowy Mountains	58
259	Moxi: A Town in the Embrace of Mountains	77
260	My Feelings for the Axu Grassland	62
260	Autumn Scenes of Miyaluo	77
262	Flavourful Dining in Chengdu	13
262	A Visit to the Long-Haired Yi Man	78
263	Journey to Northwest Sichuan	74
264	My Passions for the Yangtse River	50

264	Pure Land on Western Sichuan Plateau: Grand Buddhist Ceremony of Sexu Temple in Serxu	60
264	Around Shaanxi, Xinjiang and Sichuan in 22 Days	72
264	A Spiritual Tour to the Thousand-Buddha Caves in Jiajiang	76
265	The Shanghai Woman I met in Yading	46
265	The Nun Opera Singers of Aba	74
266	Tibetan Sutra Streamers	64
266	The Girl at the Foot of Mount Niba	78
267	Drunk Again in Liangshan	62
267	Piyanan-an Old Town on Tree Roots	66
268	Tracing Sichuan's Autumn Scenery	52

Issue	Taiwan	Page
258	Kenting: Recapturing that Summer Feeling	58
266	Admiring Southern Taiwan Customs	66

Issue	Tibet	Page
261	From Yunnan to Tibet Setting Off	14
	Entering East Tibet: Meili Snow Mountain → Markam	20
	A Characteristic Catholic Church	22
	Unique Customs of East Tibet:	
	Rawu → Drigung Monastery	24
	Zayu People: Little Known to the Outside World	26
	Four Hours in the Celestial Burial Ground	28
	Roaming About Lhasa for Half a Day	30
	The Call of Qomolangma	34
	The Sky Over Lake Nam Co	38
	On the Return Journey: Baqên → Dêqên	40
263	Who is Destroying the Grassland? — Thoughts on Chinese Caterpillar Fungi	52
264	My Passions for the Yangtse River	50
265	Wish Them a Happy Children's Day!	66
266	Tibetan Sutra Streamers	64
267	Bicycling Through Tibet Alone	70
268	Mêdog — an Unforgettable Place	12
268	Tales of the Tibetan Antelope	44

Issue	Xinjiang	Page
259	The Multicoloured City Caught in Nature's Magic Spell	74
260	Visiting the Tajiks in China's Northwest	76
264	Around Shaanxi, Xinjiang and Sichuan in 22 Days	72
265	A Trip to Taxkorgan in Xinjiang	68
269	In Touch with the Real Bogda	46
269	Three Times to the Kuche Grand Canyon	50
269	Going West	64

Issue	Yunnan	Page
258	A Watery Region on the Highland: Eryuan in Yunnan Province	42
259	Jianchuan: A Window on Bai Culture	40
259	Appreciating Snowy Mountains	58
259	Bridges, Waters, Villages...An Enjoyable Tour to Lijiang	78
260	The Mosuo Preserved Pork	75
261	From Yunnan to Tibet Setting Off	14
	Entering East Tibet: Meili Snow Mountain → Markam	20
	A Characteristic Catholic Church	22
	Unique Customs of East Tibet:	
	Rawu → Drigung Monastery	24
	Zayu People: Little Known to the Outside World	26
	Four Hours in the Celestial Burial Ground	28
	Roaming About Lhasa for Half a Day	30
	The Call of Qomolangma	34
	The Sky Over Lake Nam Co	38
	On the Return Journey: Baqên → Dêqên	40
261	My Five Days of Custody in Jianzhu	66
262	Red Earth Golden Voices	52
263	The Resplendent Flower — Waist Dais	58
264	Five Ways to See Lijiang Taking Pictures of Birds at Lake Lashi:	16
	See Lijiang as a Photographer Challenging the Yulong Snow Mountain: See Lijiang as a Climber	20
	A Visit to the Last Matriarchal Society:	
	Trace Local Customs in Lijiang	22
	A Tour of Sifang Street: A Nostalgic Trip	28
	Listen to Ancient Music of the Naxi Nationality:	

	Experience Local Customs as a Music Lover	34
265	The King of the Nest in Kunming	78
266	Stone Forest in Drizzle	13
266	The Charm of Qujing	56
266	Tibetan Sutra Streamers	64
267	Bicycling Through Tibet Alone	70
268	The Search for Shangri-La	13
269	The Diary of Our Dream Tour	66

Issue	Zhejiang	Page
263	Specialties of Zhejiang	68
265	The Ten-Mile Red Trousseau in Ninghai	47

Issue	Art & Folk Culture	Page
258	Paper-Cuttings and Embroidered Pouches from Eastern Gansu	74
262	Tri-colour Glazed Pottery in Luoyang	66
263	Specialties of Zhejiang	68
267	Daqiang Puppets	80

Issue	Equilibrium	Page
258	Uncanny Events	82
259	Adventurous Trips: Cautionary Tales	80

Issue	Festivals & Customs	Page
259	The Shidong Dragon Boat Festival	47
259	The Dama Flower Festival in Southern Gansu	56
261	Tiaohua Festival of the Xiaohua Miao People	74
262	The Tunbao Honouring Mothers Festival	68
265	Enjoying the Net-taking Festival in Shandong	59

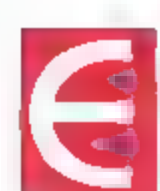
Issue	Food	Page
258	Addicted to Dining in Macao	66
260	The Mosuo Preserved Pork	75
261	Zhuiba: A Special Kind of Bread	71
262	Flavourful Dining in Chengdu	13
266	Scorpion — a Famous Food in Shandong	79

Issue	People	Page
258	A Yi Wedding	72
260	The Basha Tribe from Another Age	52
260	Children in Jubilant Celebrations	68
260	Visiting the Tajiks in China's Northwest	76
262	A Visit to the Long-Haired Yi Man	78
263	The Resplendent Flower-Waist Dais	58
264	The Wedding Rites of the Tanka People	71
265	Wish Them a Happy Children's Day!	66
265	The Nun Opera Singers of Aba	74
268	The Sangemao — Special Tibetans	74

Issue	Photography	Page
259	A Photography Tour to Mount Lushan and Liukeng Village	50
259	Appreciating Snowy Mountains	58
260	Photographing Markets: How to Control Visual Chaos	78
261	Photographing Birds on Lake Qinghai	54
261	Photographing Festivals: Capturing the Spirit of Celebration	80
262	Photographing People: How to Create Environmental Portraits	76
263	Photographing Night Scenes: Using Available Light	82
264	Photographing Landscapes: Enhancing the Sense of "Being There"	82
265	Photographing Your Hometown: Seeing the Familiar in New Ways	82
268	Tracing Sichuan's Autumn Scenery	52
269	Into the World of Egrets	60

Issue	Cross-country Topics	Page
260	From a Place Far from Home to a Foreign County: Knocking About Harbin and Vladivostok	44
263	Happy Times on an Ocean Liner	13

Issue	Experiences in Surmounting Difficulties	Page
260	Experiences in Surmounting Difficulties	70



Hotels in Taiwan

City	Name	Star	Address	Tel	Fax
Chungli	China Trust Hotel		120 Chung Yang Rd W, Sec. 1, Chungli		
Hsinchu	Ambassador Hotel Hsinchu	*****	188 Chung Hwa Rd, Sec. 2, Hsinchu		
	Grand Hotel		No. 1 Sec. 4, Chungshan Rd N, Taipei		
	Lakeshore Hotel Hsinchu		No. 51 Lane 775, Minghu Rd, Hsinchu	(886-3) 5203181	(886-3) 5203189
	Royal Hsinchu Hotel		Sec. 1, 227 Kwon-Fu Rd, Hsinchu	(886-3) 5631122	(886-3) 5631899
Kaohsiung	Hotel Ambassador	*****	202 Min Sheng 2nd Rd, Kaohsiung	(886-2) 2115211	(886-2) 2811113
	Hotel Kingdom	*****	42 Wu-fu 4th Rd, Kaohsiung		
	Hotel Cosmo Kaohsiung	****	11 Chishian 2nd Rd, Kaohsiung		
	Hotel Sunshine	****	75 Jong Hwa 4th Rd, Kaohsiung		
	Linden Hotel		33 Szu Wei 3rd Rd, Ling Ya Dist., Kaohsiung	(886-7) 3322000	(886-7) 3361600
Taichung	The Landis Taichung	*****	9 Taichung Kang Rd, Set. 2, Taichung	(886-4) 23268008	(886-4) 23268060
	National Hotel		257 Taichung Kang Rd, Sec. 1, Taichung	(886-4) 3213111	(886-4) 3213124
	Park Hotel		17 Kungyuan Rd, Taichung	(886-4) 2205181	(886-4) 2225757
Taipei	Far Eastern Plaza Hotel	*****	Taipei Metro, 201 Tun Hwa Rd S Sec. 2, Taipei	(886-2) 23788888	(886-2) 23777777
	Gloria Hotel Taipei	*****	369 Lin Sen Rd N, Taipei		
	Golden China Hotel	****	306 Sung Chiang Rd, Taipei		
	Grand Hyatt Taipei	*****	2 Sung Shou Rd, Taipei	(886-2) 27201234	(886-2) 27201111
	Imperial Hotel Taipei	*****	600 Lin Shen Rd N, Taipei		
	Lai Lai Sheraton Hotel	*****	12 Chung Hsiao Rd, Sec. 1, Taipei		
	Regent Taipei Grand Formosa	*****	41 Chung Shan Rd N, Taipei		
	Royal Taipei	*****	37, 1 Chung Shan Rd N, Sec. 2, Taipei		
	Taipei Fortuna Hotel	*****	122 Chung Shan Rd N, Sec. 2, Taipei		
	Taipei Hilton	*****	38 Chung Hsiao Rd W, Sec. 1, Taipei	(886-2) 3115151	(886-2) 3319944
	The Merlin Court	***	15 Lane 83, Sec. 1, Chung Shah Rd N, Taipei		
Taoyuan	Taoyuan Holiday Hotel	****	269 Dah Shing Rd, Taoyuan	(886-3) 3254021	(886-3) 3251222
	Taoyuan Plaza Hotel		151 Fu-hsin Rd, Taoyuan	(886-3) 3379222	(886-3) 3379250
Yunlin	Tsaoling Hotel		36 Tasoling, Ku Keng Hsiang, Yunlin	(886-55) 831228	

Flights to and from Taipei

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Amsterdam — Taipei	1 3 5 6 7	1335	0815	CX270
	1 3 5 6 7	0920	1055	CX 530
	1 5 7	1010	1140	CX 450
	3	1035	1205	CX 450
Taipei — Amsterdam	2 4 6 7	2000	2145	CX 451
	2 4 5 6 7	0015	0630	CX 271
	5	2010	2200	CX 471
	2 4 5 6 7	2035	2225	CX 531
Bangkok — Taipei	1 3 4 5 7	0820	1210	CX 700
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1310	1445	CX 564
	2 6	0820	1210	CX2700
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1000	1345	CX 708
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1515	1650	CX 510
	2 3 6	1135	1520	CX 754
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1635	1805	CX 400
	1 4 5 7	1135	1520	CX 750
	5	1815	1950	CX 402
	5	1140	1520	CX 2704
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1625	2005	CX 712
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2055	2230	CX 464
Taipei — Bangkok	1 2 3 4 5 6	1125	1315	CX 461
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1435	1625	CX 751
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1315	1505	CX 511
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1600	1750	CX 701
	3	1420	1610	CX 565
	3	1700	1845	CX 703
	1 2 4 5 6 7	1515	1705	CX 467
	1 2 4 5 6 7	1825	2015	CX 703
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1910	2100	CX 401
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2210	2355	CX 709
Berlin — Taipei	6 7	0755	0905	CX7188
	6	1120	0720	CX 252
	6 7	0850	1020	CX 460
	7	1155	0755	CX 252
	7	0920	1055	CX 530
	6 7	1010	1140	CX 450
	7	1140	1315	CX 406
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1650	1745	CX7184
	1 3 4 5 6	2145	1740	CX 254
	2 3 6 7	2145	1810	CX 254
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1935	2110	CX 468
	1 2 3 4 5 7	2055	2230	CX 464
	2 3 6 7	2155	2325	CX 408
	1 3 4 5 6 7	1915	2015	CX7186
Taipei — Berlin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1910	2100	CX 401
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2355	0505	CX 251
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0655	0940	CX7181
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0840	1125	CX7183
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2000	2145	CX 451
	4	0025	0555	CX 255
	3 5 6 7	0045	0620	CX 255

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
	1 2	0025	0620	CX 255
	5	2010	2200	CX 471
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2035	2225	CX 531
Taipei — Hong Kong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0700	0845	CX 463
	6	0715	0900	CX 469
	6	0725	0910	CX2461
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0745	0930	CX 465
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0835	1020	CX 407
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0930	1120	CX 403
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1020	1210	CX 469
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1125	1315	CX 461
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1215	1410	CX 421
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1315	1505	CX 511
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1420	1610	CX 565
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1515	1705	CX 467
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1635	1825	CX 405
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1910	2100	CX 401
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2000	2145	CX 451
	5	2010	2200	CX 471
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2035	2225	CX 531
	1 2 3 4	2240	0035	CX 2043
Hong Kong — Taipei	2 3 4 5	0325	0455	CX2042
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0850	1020	CX 460
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0920	1055	CX 530
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1010	1140	CX 450
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1140	1315	CX 406
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1310	1445	CX 564
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1340	1515	CX 466
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1415	1545	CX 420
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1515	1650	CX 510
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1635	1805	CX 400
	5	1730	1905	CX 470
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1815	1950	CX 402
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1935	2110	CX 468
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2055	2230	CX 464
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2155	2325	CX 408
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2255	0025	CX 462
Tokyo — Taipei	1 2 3 5 6 7	1245	1645	CX 450
	4	1310	1710	CX 450
Taipei — Tokyo	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1545	1845	CX 451
Vancouver — Taipei	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0850	1020	CX 460
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0215	0755	CX 889
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0920	1055	CX 530
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1405	2030	CX 839
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	2155	2325	CX 408
	4 5	2220	2350	CX2460
	1 2 3 6 7	2255	0025	CX 462
Taipei — Vancouver	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1215	1410	CX 421
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1605	1115	CX 888
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1315	1505	CX 511
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1655	1235	CX 838

Airline code:

CX= Cathay Pacific Airways Limited

* For reference only.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ISSUE No. 272

In 2003, *China Tourism* will continue aiming for excellence. We have designed a series of new columns to present the charms of China's natural and cultural landscapes from multiple perspectives. Meanwhile, noted travellers are pleased to share with you their experiences and feelings en route. Our correspondents will provide you with up-to-the-minute travel information.

Cover Feature: Lunar New Year on the Loess Plateau

The Spring Festival looms very large for the people of the Loess Plateau in the northern part of Shaanxi Province. They hold numerous celebrations in the area from the 12th month of the old year to the first lunar month of the new year. New Year markets, decorated windows, religious ceremonies, New Year feasts, lantern fairs, and local operas are among the highlights. And a stay in a cave hostel offers a fresh experience for tourists.



Discoveries: Feudal Government Mansions Deep in the Mountains

With a history spanning 19 generations, the feudal government mansions in Liancheng are still well preserved deep in the mountains between Gansu and Qinghai provinces. The mansions linked ancient postal routes and were once the stamping ground of fierce soldiers and generals but all that is now left are the old buildings themselves, gradually forgotten by history.

Profile: Rebecca Lee Lok Si

Though neither a movie star nor a celebrity, news about Rebecca Lee is still a hot item in the mass media. Her main claim to fame is as a fine and fearless traveller, explorer, environmentalist and a role model for women. But to some business types she is no better than a fool, having given up a promising career for an uncertain dream of exploring the farthest corners of the world. In Profile, she shares her views with us.



City Snap: Hangzhou

Well known for its West Lake, Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province has won the titles of "United Nations Best Place for Residence" in 2001 and "International Garden City" in 2002.

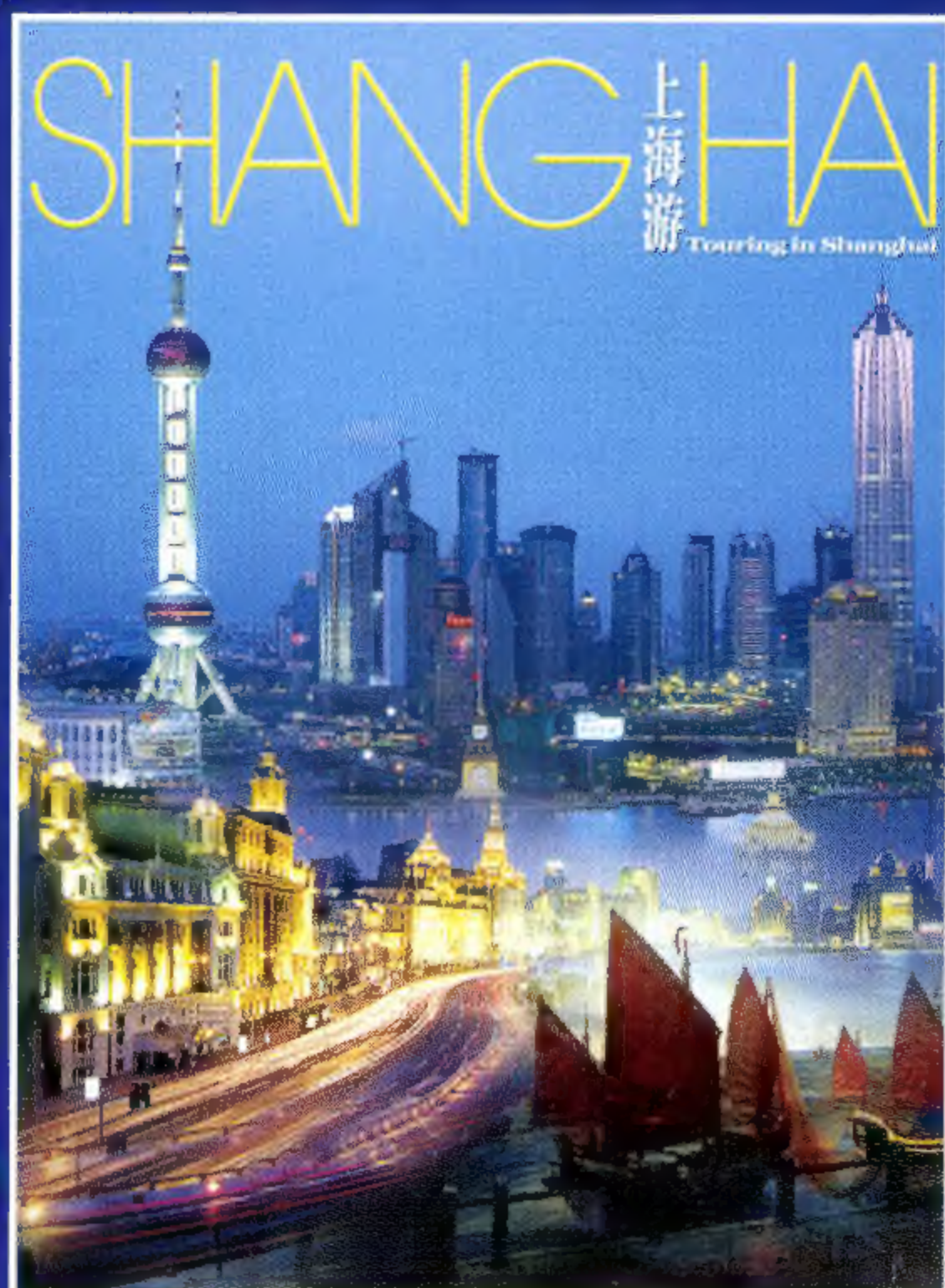
Today, the city boasts even more features to enchant you: Western coffee shops and taverns, Hangzhou-style tea houses, the rebuilt Lei Feng Pagoda, and one-time honeymoon site of Chiang Kai-shek and Song Meiling.



Bed & Board: The Chime-Long Night Zoo Hotel

The right accommodation is always vital for a perfect holiday. In Bed & Board we will introduce readers to some out of the ordinary places to stay that, while still comfortable, offer some extra special feature or characteristic. The Chime-Long Hotel is an ideal choice for travellers who are tired of ordinary lodgings. As this hotel is located in the Panyu Night Zoo in Guangdong Province, guests will feel like they are staying in a wild forest in close touch with Mother Nature.

BEST SELLER



Shanghai

has evolved at an unprecedented speed for decades into the biggest commercial city in China and one of the great metropolises of the world. Favourably located at the mouth of the Yangtse River, Shanghai has a long history and a rich culture. Commercial tower blocks and traditional buildings exude their individual charms simultaneously in the Pudong District, where hundreds of buildings in different styles, old or new, are collectively known as the Exposition of World Architecture. A kaleidoscope of entertainments and festivals of Old Shanghai attracts scores of entrepreneurs and travellers alike. "Touring in Shanghai" takes you deeper into this vibrant city

through spectacular photography, along with outlines for more than 10 different kinds of tours including a shopping tour, popular tourist sights, cultural excursions, and more. Practical information summarises accommodations, transport and dining options, and tourist maps are also included. "Touring in Shanghai" is the latest, most comprehensive travel pictorial of Shanghai available in Hong Kong.



Now a **20% off** is offered to our readers

Original price HK\$120.00

Discounted price
HK\$96.00

Copies: _____

Postage (Surface mail per copy):

- ☐ Hong Kong HK \$15.00
- ☐ Macao, China, Taiwan HK \$22
- ☐ Asian countries (except Japan) HK \$36
- ☐ Non-Asian countries (including Japan) HK \$38

Name: _____ Subscription # _____ if applicable

Daytime tel.: _____ E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

Payment method:

☐ Cheque enclosed made payable to 'Hong Kong China Tourism Press'

☐ Credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Cardholder's name: _____

Card number: _____

Signature: _____

Expiry date: _____ Total amount (book + postage): _____

Please return your completed form either by fax to (852) 2561-8196 or mail to Subscription Department, 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.

For more information, please call us on tel. # (852) 2561-8001, Subscription Department.

Hong Kong China Tourism Photo Library

The Hong Kong China Tourism Photo Library is the longest established and largest of its kind in China. Hundreds of thousands of the finest examples of photographic art from our own professionals and over 700 other photographers throughout the country reveal China in all its moods and glories. The library is a constantly updated resource offering the most comprehensive range available of high quality imagery of China.

E-mail: plchinat@netvigator.com

